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12 October 1982

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No. 2588

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BRIEFS

GASOLINE PRICE INCREASE--Roseau, Dominica, Sept. 3, (CANA)--The wholesale and retail prices of gasoline here are to be increased by ten cents a gallon with effect from next Tuesday, it was officially announced today. According to a government statement, the decision was taken by the minister responsible for supplies control and regulation of prices, after a lengthy meeting between government officials, representatives of West Indies Oil company and Texaco (Trinidad) Ltd. Under the new price structure, gasoline will now be retailed at \$5.95 (one EC dollar--37 cents U.S.) per imperial gallon, with the maximum permissible wholesale selling price being \$5.65 EC. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Sep 82 p 16]

CSO: 3025/477

BRIEFS

ELECTRICITY RATE INCREASE--Consumers will have to pay more for electricity with effect from October 1, 1982, the Guyana Electricity Corporation announced in a release yesterday. The revised charges stem from the corporation's costly rehabilitation programme now in progress. The GEC release noted that although the corporation experienced a \$5M reduction in labour and material costs this year, the rehabilitation programme and the predicted higher operational costs for the recommissioned gas turbine, constrain the corporation to make an upward revision of charges to consumers. "Electricity charges will now be increased by an average of 13 cents on every dollar," the GEC release stated. "The increased charges, however will vary between residential and nonresidential consumers. Variations in the tariff structures are designed to ensure that these rates more closely reflect the costs of supplying electricity on the individual tariffs." [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Sep 82 p 8]

CSO: 3025/477

BRIEFS

SUMMIT PROPOSAL--Bogota, 17 Sep (LATIN-REUTER)--Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco supports Colombian President Belisario Betancur's proposal that a meeting of American chiefs of state be held before the end of this year. A meeting of presidents was proposed by Betancur on 7 August, the day he took office as Colombian President, to design a new inter-American policy. Various Latin American presidents favor the idea. In a message sent today to President Betancur, the Dominican chief of state says: "I highly recommend the good idea you had to propose that a meeting of heads of state of the American community be held before year's end in Cartagena de Indias on the Colombian Caribbean coast." "I am certain that it will be of great benefit to engage in an extensive dialogue on the problems that are common to us and which are so closely connected with the future of our American fatherlands," President Blanco added in his message to the Colombian head of state. He also announced his willingness to strengthen trade and relations between the Dominican Republic and Colombia. [Text] [PA180805 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1856 GMT 17 Sep 82]

CSO: 3248/18

SELA'S 'REGIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY' STRATEGY ANALYZED

Buenos Aires MERCADO in Spanish 2 Sep 82 pp 20-22

[Text] SELA, the Latin American Economic System, defined its objective during the VIII Meeting of the Latin American Council held recently in Caracas. It succeeded in setting up an economic security front and a collective self-defense front to reduce the region's external vulnerability. The new system may well have the characteristics of a true economic TIAR [Latin American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty] but this time without the United States. The document which has approved is one of the most concrete steps in more than 20 years of efforts to integrate Latin American economies to guarantee a more rapid and harmonious development. From now on Latin America has its own system for reacting against coercive steps taken against any of its member states as in the case of Argentina during the South Atlantic conflict. These new measures were analyzed during an interview given MERCADO by Agustin Pazos, secretary of the Action Committee in Support of Argentina and by Felix Pena, secretary of international economic relations.

Felix Pena explained that nobody is surprised that the industrialized nations apply coercive economic measures to exert political pressure on the developing nations. Economic blockade, freezing of funds, suspension of credits and boycotting of international financing are some of the tools which the big countries habitually use and which cause a serious setback in North-South relations and seriously affect the interests of the developing nations. Argentina knows this very well; the recent events during the Malvinas war confirm those facts. Opposing this, the decisions reached at Caracas are clear and forceful and aim at reducing the external vulnerability of the region.

To this effect, the Latin American SELA Council unanimously reaffirmed the sovereign right of the nations and expressed its solidarity with its member nations and other developing nations against which coercive economic measures are applied which violate the policy and practice of the international market. To counteract this type of action, the participants at the meeting approved the groundwork for a "regional economic security" strategy which will make it possible to deal with this type of measure. The decision reached on this matter established a simple, flexible procedure by which the affected nation can call for an urgent meeting of the Latin American Council at the ministerial level to study the situation. Within 5 days after one-half plus one

of the member nations reply, a meeting is to be held to take appropriate steps.

Pena commented that one of the most significant events of the meeting, among the many decisions reached, concerns the economic relations between Latin America and the EEC.

The member nations of SELA agreed unanimously that they will not reopen talks with the EEC nations as long as they maintain the economic measures against Argentina. Pena explained, "I believe that this is one of the most forceful and concrete measures approved during the council's meeting which once again displays the solidarity of Latin America with one of its nations affected by economic sanctions." The "renewed talks," he added, have had few results due to the lack of political will in the EEC to make these talks a suitable vehicle for improving relations with the Latin American countries. He added however, that when the EEC decides to terminate the measures taken against Argentina appropriate actions will certainly be taken to reopen talks and to establish the minimum necessary policies so that they can be transformed into pragmatic actions contributing to exchanges between the two regions.

Pazos said, "To the degree that we become stronger internally by complementing one another economically and by reorienting Latin American foreign trade, we will be in a better position to negotiate and to ward off external coercion by the developed nations. We will also be in a better position to defend Latin America from threats and aggressions such as those which Argentina underwent and others that may occur though they may not be of the same magnitude. What we seek to accomplish with this is nothing other than to set up a system of economic security and collective regional self-defense."

The steps which have just been taken in Caracas were supported from the beginning by a consensus of the 18 Latin American countries who decided to set up, on 2 June 1982, the Action Committee in Support of Argentina. To these must now be added the support of Grenada, Costa Rica and Colombia, bringing to 21 the nations resolved to set up a common front against any type of economic measures that any country outside the region may take against Latin American interests. Felix Pena commented that Colombia's decision, besides causing an enthusiastic reaction among the other member nations of SELA, is an attitude of great political significance. Colombia thus made evident that, in spite of the position she took months ago, she today feels solidarity with Argentina with regard to the steps taken against our country."

Obviously, in a gathering of this kind, it was impossible to omit from consideration economic relations between Latin America and the United States. On this occasion, emphasis was again given to the importance of the subject since the imbalance in favor of the United States hurts the economic and social development of the region. Hence, it was explained, "it is necessary to make significant changes in our economic relations on both sides." In this regard, the Action Committee in Support of Argentina has the important function of reorienting the area's trade without duplicating the actions being taken by LAIA [Latin American Integration Association] and the Andean Group.

According to the studies reported during the SELA meeting, trade and cooperation within Latin America could be significantly increased, "to the point of lessening the crisis which to a greater or lesser degree affects the countries of the region." Pazos explained that only 15 percent of all Latin American commerce is inside the region. This percentage could easily be doubled by the end of this decade if appropriate encouragement is given to increased intraregional exchange.

Another decision reached during the Caracas meeting was to call a meeting of government experts who, taking into account the groundwork developed by SELA and other regional organizations, are to prepare specific proposals for Latin American cooperation. These should be aimed at strengthening economic security in such fields as: foreign finance, insurance and reinsurance, international transportation, technology, food self-sufficiency and other fields which the member states may consider appropriate so as to reduce the external vulnerability of the region. This report is to be delivered at the ninth regular meeting of the council and to be studied on a priority basis.

Pazos explained that, among the 35 decisions reached, it is also important to stress the formation of the Action Committee for the Establishment of the Regional Food Security System. He mentioned the importance of this subject because the rate of growth of basic agriculture for food production in the region is lower than the rate of increase of Latin American food demand. He also said that estimates of world food production and demand indicate a possible reduction in the amounts of food effectively available for export which is an important factor to be taken into account in guaranteeing our region's food security.

In view of the conditions described, the Latin American representatives decided to support the creation of a system for the purpose of achieving food security on the following basis:

Increase productivity and stimulate Latin American trade in basic foods to strengthen regional autonomy.

Foster the timely interchange of information and statistics of food, especially as to surpluses and shortages of basic products.

Encourage research, technological development, training and technical cooperation among Latin American countries.

Strengthen the activities carried out by SELA in regard to common food security objectives pursued by other Latin American regional organizations.

Pazos explained, If we are able to increase foreign commerce within the region and to replace, as far as possible, imports from outside, we will reduce our economic dependency, we will be able to diminish our vulnerability and we will rapidly achieve the regional development which, because of internal and external factors, we have put off. This does not mean that we will sink into isolationism and forget the rest of the world; that would be foolish, impractical and unrealistic. On the contrary, we should increase our relationships and discover new markets to multiply our traditional exports through serious and coherent efforts. This is the goal. I do not doubt that if we make up our minds to achieve it we can do so."

PAPER EVALUATES ENDERS-LANARI MEETING

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 17 Aug 82 p 8

[Editorial: "The Conversation"]

[Text] For the first time since the War of the Malvinas, a meeting was held this weekend between our foreign minister, Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari, and the under-secretary of state of the United States for inter-American affairs, Thomas Enders.

This event merits two essential comments and not much more. In the first place, it is convenient and positive that Argentina have an ongoing channel of information and dialogue with the United States, whose views, because of its status as a world power, always carry weight in all international matters and should therefore preferably be known directly rather than through intermediaries of any kind.

In the second place, as a practical corollary of the above, a meeting like this must be entered into without illusions whatever, seeking to base it on an objective criterion which can only be the national interest of both nations as defined by the historical period, expediency and gains involved for each of them.

It is this second aspect that encounters difficulty in being accepted by Argentine public opinion, which, owing undoubtedly to lack of political maturity, does not see international relations as a field in which emotions and good intentions play a role, which of course they do, but a subordinate one to the harsh exigencies of the interests of nations which, when they conflict with the former, end up always prevailing. This, of course, becomes finally understood only by way of hard international experience which, by expressing itself in the language of facts and not of intentions, teaches with an effectiveness and a rapidity that can never be equalled by the best of the textbooks and teachers in that specialized field. And this, among other things, is what Argentina has learned from that extraordinary experience that for her has been in every respect the War of the Malvinas. Nothing will ever be the same again, henceforth, for Argentina.

The intensity of the experience we have lived is what enables us--and in a way makes it imperative for us--to shorten our learning stages and acquire an inter-

national awareness that until now we have not had. This is why Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari's meeting with Undersecretary of State Thomas Enders is neither very important for Argentina nor, on the other hand, lacking in interest to the extent that it signifies a reopening of mutually advantageous relations. But that is all. It signifies neither the end of a stage nor the beginning of a new one. What it does signify is that Argentina, whether by way of the current military government or, shortly, a constitutional civilian one, will henceforth conduct its international relations exclusively within the terms of reference and strictly in accordance with the demands of its own national interest. It will proceed, furthermore, on the basis that its basic interest as a nation is as profoundly Western as that of any great power of that persuasion. For, if the balance sheet of the episode of the War of the Malvinas has, for our country, any bottom line, it is, without entering into the question of whether it is positive or negative, the conviction arrived at, once and for all, that, for Argentina, what matters most in the world is her own self-interest.

9238

CSO: 3010/2311

JUSTICE MINISTER SPEAKS ON DETAINEES ISSUE, STATUS

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 21 Aug 82 p 12

[Text] The minister of justice, Dr Lucas Lennon, said last night to LA NACION that "The current handling of the situation regarding persons being detained without trial or sentencing" is on the general agenda of matters to be addressed by the present government with a view to "reestablishing progressively the full force of a state of law."

Mr Alfredo Bravo, president of the APDH [Permanent Assembly for Human Rights], for his part, upon being consulted by this newspaper, stated that the work being done by the organization he presides and by other similar institutions, "and the magnitude the problem has taken on in the public mind and the religious, political and labor union institutions, lends further strength to our thought that the government cannot put off its decision to free the detainees--immediately--for political as well as labor union reasons."

Consistency of Action

On being asked as to the procedures that will be applied with respect to the detainees at the disposal of the executive governmental authorities, Dr Lennon provided no exact details, but stated that "Anyone who has observed closely the evolution that has taken place in the decisions of the executive with respect to these persons will have seen that, lately, the issuance of orders releasing them has been stepped up considerably."

The official added that "This fact sets forth with sufficient clarity the policy that underlies current action by the government in this regard," and made it a point to emphasize that this action "is consistent with the fundamental objective that governs this phase of the National Reorganization Process."

Dr Lennon did not specify any dates with respect to future releases of detainees, but he affirmed that "In this respect, the government's intent is the normal operation of all the nation's institutions."

APDH View

Asked about the detainees, Mr Bravo, for his part, said "it is lamentable" that the organization he presides does not have access to the institutions where the detainees are being held and that the members of his organization cannot talk with the officials of those establishments.

Contacts of that kind, he feels, "would perhaps make possible a more constructive dialogue and an enlightenment of public opinion."

When he was asked as to the number of persons being held by the government, and their various statuses, the president of the APDH replied that the record kept by his institution is not exact, since it was compiled on the basis of information provided by relatives of the detainees. He explained that this rules out knowledge of the specific statuses of the detainees in terms of numbers.

Number of Detainees

In any case, officials of the APDH stated that as of yesterday, 446 persons were being detained by the government "without trial or due process since the time of their detention, or under a stay of proceedings, or with sentences carried out, or under proceedings in course."

They also mentioned another 273 who, according to them, were tried by military tribunals, while 147 are at the disposal of the government but under a supervised freedom, hence not being held in detention.

Of those who have been tried judicially, 83 have yet to complete the sentences handed down by the Federal Courts, according to APDH officials.

As to the number of detainees in the different penal institutes, 128 are reported being held in Caseros, 135 in Unidad 2 (Villa Devoto-women), 229 in Rawson and 349 in La Plata. It was added that in Unidad 20 (Borda) and Unidad 27 (Moyano) there are 4 and 3 persons, respectively, "who are suffering serious psychic disturbances."

Officials of the organization specified that in Mendoza there are 9 detainees, in Cordoba 7, and in Entre Rios 3, and added that it is possible there are more in other provinces, but that these have not as yet been located.

Censure

Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Adolfo Perez Esquivel, for his part, said yesterday in Santa Fe that the sector he heads is anxious to know "What has happened to the 102 infants that were born in captivity?" and affirmed that "It is necessary that the government clarify this situation."

2309

CSO: 3010/2311

DEFENSE MINISTER MARTINEZ VIVOT ON BENEFITS FOR MALVINAS VETERANS

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 1 Aug 82 p 11

[Text] Defense Minister Dr Julio J. Martinez Vivot disclosed yesterday that a National Commission for the Monument to the Fallen in the South Atlantic Conflict will be formed, and announced a series of measures aimed at providing concrete benefits for veterans and their families "beyond what the provisions currently in effect had planned in this respect."

In statements made exclusively to TELAM, the defense minister indicated that the measures he was referring to are contained in the Military Personnel Law (19.101) which places permanent personnel and nonpermanent personnel as well who took part in battle operations during the conflict in the same status, including also those conscripts who at the time they were wounded or killed had military status.

Asked as to whether those measures had already begun being implemented, he replied that "Actually, 46 pensions have already been decreed payable to women widowed by the conflict" and that others are currently being processed in cases of soldiers killed or missing in action."

"But it should be noted," he clarified, "that not all cases of killed or missing in action will qualify for a military pension based on that fact alone."

Martinez Vivot pointed out that "In that realm of matters, as in the general civilian one, death benefits are a function of social security, in the form of a payment to the immediate family as 'rightful claimants,' provided, however, that to receive that benefit, the claimants must have been dependent upon the deceased. This means that, with respect to the conscripts killed or missing in action, and considering their ages, it is possible that most of them were single and did not have children, and even did not have parents dependent on them but rather, to the contrary, as is natural, that the deceased had actually been dependent on his parents."

Asked whether the parents of a conscript killed in action are entitled to a pension, he specified that "They will be if they can prove that the conscript was

economically dependent on them. This means that if they definitely cannot prove this circumstance, if they did [this passage as published] the situation will have to be addressed, not under the general and permanent Law, but rather in a special one on family subsidies."

Asked whether the wounded will receive a military retirement benefit, Dr Martinez Vivot indicated that "it will depend on the degree of disability, and then its treatment. If no disability whatever is involved, he will eventually be entitled to a subsidy if the circumstances warrant. If the disability exceeds 66 percent of total capability, it will qualify as total disability and the soldier will be entitled to retirement, even at the pay level of the next higher grade to his. If the disability is of a lesser degree than total as defined above, the Military Personnel Law provides for payment of a compensatory indemnity."

9399

CSO: 3010/2311

ARMY SOURCES RELEASE INFORMATION ON AID TO WAR VETERANS

Bahia Blanca LA NUEVA PROVINCIA in Spanish 20 Aug 82 p 6

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Aug (TELAM)--Army sources have disclosed that a decision has been taken to grant a special subsidy to combat veterans who were physically or psychologically disabled in the Malvinas War, and to the relatives of those who were killed in it.

The subsidy, which will be added to the pensions, death benefits and life insurance payments, will include also those who, not being members of the Armed Forces, were casualties of the war, such as, for example, the crew of the "Narwal" fishing boat.

According to the announcement, the death of a conscript soldier will give rise to the payment of 251 million pesos as a special insurance benefit, plus 2,644,000 pesos as a death benefit, plus 4,500,000 pesos as an obligatory insurance benefit.

The sums that must be paid will come from balances in the account known as the "Malvinas Islands Patriotic Fund," as well as from credits in the budgets of the respective Armed Forces commands. This information is still according to the announcement.

Until now, the steps taken by the Armed Forces in the cases of the killed, wounded or missings in action in the fighting in the South Atlantic has consisted of the respective communications to the families, followed, in the cases of death, by the entering of the respective records of death in the civil and personal status register, the issuance of the required documents, and the institution of the related pension proceedings.

Under the measure that has now been announced, which has been provided for through the passing of a bill that had been drawn up to this effect, benefits will also be extended to those who were permanently disabled and also to the families of those who lost their lives defending Argentina's sovereign rights in the usurped territories.

This regulation, it was announced, will cover military personnel, civilians called up, and civilians killed in actions of war even though they took no part in war actions as combatants.

The sums to be paid are scaled according to degree of disability suffered and according to the victim's rank, with the stipulation that, if the permanent disability amounts to 66 percent or more of the victim's aptitude for earning a living in civilian life, he will receive 100 percent of the subsidy, the same as in cases of death.

If the disability results in an impairment of less than 66 percent, the victim will receive a proportional subsidy between 30 and 90 percent of the special subsidy.

In the cases of persons listed as missing, that is, those whose deaths have not been confirmed, the family will in each case continue receiving the total pay of the missing person.

Patriotic Fund

Cordoba, 19 Aug (TELAM)--The 3rd Army Corps Command, with headquarters in this city, released a communication today detailing the distribution of the funds received by the Malvinas Islands Patriotic Fund, which totaled 131,412,100,100 pesos.

"Of this total," says the release, "73,500,000,000 pesos, or 53 percent, were turned over to the Public Health Command for prosthetic devices and expenditures for therapy, as well as for hospitalization costs.

"The sum of 32,688,884,000 pesos (23 percent)," it says, "went to the Arsenal Command for the procurement of essential combat equipment used during military operations.

"The remaining 24 percent, or 33,223,215,000 pesos, went to the Quartermaster Command for the purchase of fuel, heaters, combat rations and special items of protective outerwear."

Lastly, the 3rd Army Corps Command expresses "gratitude for the strong support and the high degree of faith and patriotism shown by the Argentine people."

Gratitude to Volunteers

Buenos Aires, 19 Aug (TELAM)--The minister of defense, Dr Julio Martinez Vivot, announced in statements to TELAM that tomorrow at 1800 hours a ceremony will be held to express gratitude to the volunteers who enrolled for the Malvinas Islands in view of the recent operations in the South Atlantic.

The ceremony will be held in Salon F of the General San Martin Cultural Center, and will be attended by national authorities, and representatives of the Argen-

tine Red Cross, CONAMA, CONDCOR, CORDIC, special guests and relatives of the volunteers.

Martinez Vivot said the number of volunteers registered with that ministry exceeded 27,000, a fact that he called "encouraging"; he added that this figure becomes about 100,000 if those enrolled in other organizations, including civilian bodies, are included.

He commented that most of them, when asked the reason for their action, replied that they were responding "to a call of the Fatherland," and he added that the offers made covered the widest range of positions, with many of them volunteering for "hazardous duty," and others as "suicide pilots."

He stated that tomorrow's ceremony has as its principal object to express gratitude to the volunteers who enrolled for the operations carried out in the South Atlantic, in that they had manifested a "high patriotic spirit" and had shown themselves eager to "cooperate disinterestedly in the defense of the common interests of the nation, without distinction as to sex, age, nationality or occupation."

Ex-Combatants: Fee Exemption

La Plata, 19 Aug (TELAM)--The local municipality has decided to grant subsidies to the Argentine ex-combatants as conscripted soldiers in the recent military conflict in the South Atlantic, to cover the costs involved, in the form of communal and provincial fees and taxes, in the obtention of duplicate driver's licences.

To this effect, the La Plata municipality has allocated to the local Motor Vehicle Bureau 6 million pesos and has advised that those interested in receiving this benefit must apply in person to the Motor Vehicle Bureau within not more than 60 days from today.

The whereas and therefore of the measure state that to accommodate efficiently and expeditiously the needs of those who as ex-combatant Argentine conscripted soldiers in the recent military conflict in the South Atlantic had their driver's licenses issued by the La Plata municipality withheld at the time of embarkation for return to the continent, it has been held expedient to grant them a subsidy for the sums they must pay to obtain the mentioned document.

9399

CSO: 3010/2311

BRIEFS

NATIONAL BANK LAYOFFS--The planned lay-offs at the state-run Barbados National Bank have begun. According to reports some nine staff members have so far been paid out as the bank seeks to cut its losses. Those retrenched to date include both senior and junior employees. The reports have stated that six people were retrenched while three voluntarily offered to leave, including a senior accounting officer. The bank by circular asked staff who wanted to be voluntarily retrenched. Senior bank officials have declined to state how much money has so far been paid out to those retrenched, but it is known that a middle management officer who was employed at the BNB's James Street head office received around \$30,000. At least another 30 officers in the BNB are expected to be made redundant, but this exercise could take a little while, according to reports. Prime Minister Tom Adams while speaking in the House of Assembly in late July said that up to about 40 members of the bank's staff will have to go to bring its personnel down to a more manageable size. Mr Adams' office said that the bank established in 1978 had lost \$5.8 million dollars up to the end of last year. He also said that the bank will be re-organised to put it into a more "agreeable position." Mr Adams has already said that he does not want to see that junior bank officials in the retrenchment exercise, and according to reports a number of senior and middle management personnel can expect to be retrenched. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 2 Sep 82 p 1]

CSO: 3025/482

BRIEFS

UNGA DELEGATION--Carl Rogers, acting prime minister and defense minister, left for New York today to attend the 37th United Nations General Assembly meeting. [Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 25 Sep 82 FL]

PAHO MEMBERSHIP--Belize was today accepted as a member of the Pan-American Health Organization [PAHO], in spite of Guatemala's opposition. Guatemala voted against Belize's admission while Venezuela and Uruguay abstained from voting. [Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 25 Sep 82 FL]

CANADIAN ENVOY--Mr David Reece, the new Canadian non-resident high commissioner to Belize, today presented his credentials to Prime Minister George Price in his Belmopan office. [FL210155 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 21 Sep 82 FL]

CSO: 3298/1104

MIREYA BALTRA DISCUSSES STRUGGLE AGAINST PINOCHET

FL201910 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1320 GMT 20 Sep 82

[Interview with Mireya Baltra, former Chilean labor minister, and Chilean Trade Union Federation [CUTCH] leader by Miguel Toirac--from the Revista De La Manana program]

[Text] [Toirac] Good morning, (Mireya). We would like to first of all talk about the present struggle of the Chilean people.

[Baltra] We can start by noting that the fascist Pinochet junta is now confronting a great economic crisis. This economic crisis creates the proper atmosphere for expanding the struggle of the Chilean people.

We can note that at present we are witnessing the development of a new stage in the struggle of the masses to achieve the unity of the Chilean people. There is a deep hatred among the masses. This hatred is mainly shown through the struggle of Chilean women.

Moreover, we can inform you that a sort of commando operation which have a large following that go by the name of five by one has been formed. This means that when there are police operations carried out to disperse flash rallies [mitines relampagos], demonstrations protesting against the hunger of the people, which have been held throughout the country, five women attack police officers and take away their police sticks, hats, etc.

We believe in this new spirit of struggle, in this confrontation of the police and security forces of the fascist dictatorship.

Another important example: When police attack the masses or groups holding flash rallies men and women free those who have been arrested by police.

This means we are in a new stage in the struggle and in the development of the organization of the masses and what is more important we have lost fear. Chilean women have a slogan: We have lost everything, let us now lose our fears.

Large women conferences have been held, issues are being discussed more frequently in meetings and assemblies and there is an obvious restlessness among the masses, but we are aware that this restlessness must grow if we are to overthrow the dictatorship.

Furthermore popular parties, those parties representing the working class are also aware that revolutionary violence must be exercised if the dictatorship is to be defeated. This means, that without a systematic violent process it will be impossible to oust Pinochet's fascist regime.

Of course, we are also aware that this demands a process, that it is learning process, that it is an organization process, a process that leaders must develop.

We believe that unity is achieved and developed faster at grassroot level, that is, the workers who are experiencing misery that this regime has generated; undernourished children because Chileans are hungry. This grassroots unity is what pushes some leaders forward, leaders who hesitate. And this has to be said: There are some leaders who believe that the dictatorship can be defeated by means of compromise, conciliation or reformism. But the Chilean labor class demands unity to be able to struggle. In other words, we must struggle to achieve this unity.

[Toirac] We want to note that we believe that sooner or later the Chilean people will achieve victory. We also thank Mireya Baltra, the only woman labor minister in the history of Chile, for being here and we wish her success in the future.

CSO: 3348/22

REPORTER ATTENDS SECRET M-19 CONFERENCE

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 24, 31 Aug 82

[Two-part article by Ligia Riveros]

[24 Aug 82 pp 12-21]

[Text] I attended, as a guest, the Eighth Conference of M-19 [19 April Movement], which was held for 15 days in the jungle. At it, there were discussions of the situation that the country is experiencing in the social, political and economic areas, the democratic openness and the status of its political prisoners; the Military Ethics Code was drafted; and approval was given for a message to President Betancur, asking him for a national dialog, for the purpose of achieving peace. Delegates from the ELN's [Army of National Liberation] "Camilo Torres" Front attended, as observers. The major absentee: Bolivar's sword.

The shots resounded in the jungle.

Those attending the conference immediately became guerrilla fighters, ready to die. The children took a defensive position in response to the attack, like any adult, along with their commanders, the troops ready for anything rather than allow the camp to be violated by the "enemy," as Bateman promised when he opened the Eighth Conference of M-19 on 7 August.

The rustic conference room, made of wood, with plastic on the roof resembling a canopy, where there was a discussion every day of "fighting for a free, democratic fatherland, and never accepting the humiliation of a surrender, because we are not conquered," remained empty. In the back, there was the M-19 flag. On the table made of tree-trunks, there was the typewriter, with its constant pounding of keys which served as a musical background for the jungle sounds during the 10 days that the guerrilla meeting lasted. And there was a careful arrangement of the Eighth Conference documents, including the first pages of the records against the Turbay Ayala government in the political, social and economic realms, and human rights; and the analysis of the democratic openness and the social and political situation currently being experienced by the country; as well as other secret documents on M-19's political and military organization (OPM). Nothing, absolutely nothing, could fall into the hands of the Army, and they were ready to do anything to prevent it. There was not even food left; the camp cooks were ordered to throw it away, so as not to feed the "enemy" at the guerrillas' expense.

The bullets whizzed; I was afraid, as much so as when I confused the counter guerrillas with the guerrillas in Remolino, a settlement on the Orteguzaza River, on my trip to Caqueta to investigate the hijacking of the Aeropesca plane which was carrying 7 tons of weapons for the movement.

I reacted, pulling the zipper of my bag to take out the camera. Just then, a guerrilla fighter went by me, and threw it into the air. It fell in complete disarray. I considered running, and leaving my work material; but I did not do so. I started crawling and searching in the mud left by the rain. There I was, between the legs of a guerrilla fighter, who was creeping along, trying to reach the parade ground, where the rebels line up every morning at 0600 hours sharp. My hand did not reach the target until I fished for it, as if it were a hare.

Now, the shots from the sub-machine gun that seemed to be rising along the hill received a response from the Belgian Fal's and the M-1 carbines. I made a visual search for Bateman, who is 1.90 meters tall, weighing 90 kilograms, from the coast, with a constant smile, who stands on tiptoe and uses his hands when addressing his troops. I saw him with his green towel hanging from his neck, one with which he is constantly wiping away the sweat, and with his ever impeccable blue shirt, his khaki pants, his muddy hiking boots and his curly hair, increasingly gray at the sideburns: the general commander of M-19, who preaches the thinking of the liberator, Simon Bolivar, accompanying his military action with the shout: "Bolivar, your sword ready for combat, today, tomorrow and forever!"

Bateman was looking on all sides; he was analyzing the situation. I was surprised that he had his old "gringo"-made M-1 carbine, which can shoot up to 1,000 meters away without risking a miss, slung in its holder and not gripped. Behind Bateman, clinging to a tree, was Mao, aged 13, the youngest in the camp, with the same carbine as his general commander's, ready to confront the soldiers face to face. The boy, who is a lieutenant in M-19 owing to his courage in combat, and who during rest periods oils his weapon as if it were a toy, held his breath and stared hard, with his finger on the trigger, ready to fire.

Suddenly Raul, the commander of the southern front, ordered: "Pick up gear!" I came to my senses; only a few seconds had elapsed. I ran toward the trees that served to hold up my hammock each night. I saw there my underwear hanging up, my poorly washed blue jeans and the Indian blouse that always accompanies me on trips. The shooting had intensified. I remembered the "containment group" responsible for keeping up the attack, while the priority order to protect the guest reporters is carried out. Nancy, my bodyguard, who was 17 years old on that day, grabbed one of my knapsacks, the heaviest one, and took me by the arm forcefully to lead me downhill, on the side opposite the attack. The shots stopped. A loud voice, like thunder, shouted: "In formation!" The men obeyed immediately. "Good time, you were not bad. The mock battle was successful!" Behind Bateman was Ivan Marino Ospina, M-19's second in command, who escaped from La Picota with Helmer Marin on 25 June 1980, laughing loudly with his arms akimbo. He had put his Czech sub-machine gun into action.

"It's good to get rid of the rustiness," said Bateman. "Tomorrow, we shall be the people's army, ever ready for combat if we do not achieve peace. We must not forget that the force of our military strategy will lend strength and support to our political strategy. We are determined to carry on this battle to the final consequences, always at the side of the people. We cannot rest a moment on past victories. Peace depends on our action."

Four hours later, the mock battle became a reality. The threat of an attack on the conference was imminent. According to the first intelligence reports, the Army had clashed with Jose Conrado Marin's column, and the regular forces had sustained 10 casualties. The staff met in private; during a break, it ordered the digging of trenches. A scouting detachment had detected the "enemy's" presence very nearby.

This was the third time that Bateman stopped smiling. It had happened before: on the night when he learned about the assassination of Camilo Restrepo Valencia, at the exit of a police inspector's office in Cali, in the presence of his mother. Bateman had known Camilo since he was a child, and a family friendship linked them together, as well as the struggle. That was the saddest night during the 15 days that I spent with M-19 in the jungle. The next day, before the conference discussions, military honors were accorded Camilo, and a minute of silence was kept. The other time that Bateman stopped smiling was shortly after Belisario Betancur's inauguration speech. On a cassette tape which RCN [Colombian National Radio] never aired, he asked the new president for an immediate dialog on a site that he would determine, in search of a concrete solution for the social injustice being experienced by the country, for the purpose of achieving peace for Colombia.

On the day of the battle, it was announced that the camp was in a state of emergency. And it was in that atmosphere that it lived until the end of the conference.

In Search of a 'Disclosure'

When I was invited to M-19's Eighth Conference, I did not hesitate for an instant. It was a journalistic event of unquestionable significance, particularly because of the government transition. The name of Belisario Betancur has evoked expectations of renewal and hope in the country. That is what M-19 thinks. This is why Bateman and his staff wrote to the president of Colombia: "We propose to you that a great national dialog be called, because the problems being experienced at present by the nation and the people affect all of the country's living forces. You have found the country with a high unemployment rate, a bankrupt national industry, and scandals in the financial sector, with poverty and hunger afflicting millions. This is not democracy nor peace. To M-19, political freedoms and respect for the lives of the people's fighters are peace; it is the people's participation in the national wealth; it is a social policy that meets the vast needs of the people for bread, a roof, work, education and health."

The last time that the rebel group met was in mid-July 1979, 6 months after the theft of weapons from the Army in the Northern Canton, when much of its staff had been captured: Carlos Pizarro Leon-Gomez, Ivan Marino Ospina, Israel Santamaria and Andres Almarales. Alvaro Fayad, the third-ranking member of the organization, had not yet been arrested.

To attend the conference, leaders from M-19's eight regional groups began mobilizing by plane, boat, horse trails and paths, 2 months in advance. There were peasant, Indian, union, labor and student leaders, and women who had to leave their small children in the urban areas, but who had to attend, because they hold key posts in the organization.

From 2 to 5 August, it was possible to enter the area; afterwards, all contact was lost. I spoke with M-19 for the first time in Ipiales. I had to carry EL TIEMPO

under my arm. A woman with the appearance of a schoolgirl approached me. She spoke my name and invited me to follow her. Two young men were waiting for me in a rather dilapidated car. We rode for 8 hours in silence. When we reached Mocoa, we changed vehicles. Three hours later, we were entering a small town: and we drove directly to the river, which I presume was the Caqueta or Mandur. We immediately boarded a boat. The woman who was my first contact in IpiALES smiled for the first time. The tension was reduced. "How do you feel?" she asked. I answered that I was all right, and looked directly at her. She was no more than 19 years old, with sad eyes. Later, one of the commanders told me: "She is a valuable member of the organization. A year and a half ago, she was arrested in Cali, and was tortured and raped. She never spoke."

The journey along the river was long. At dawn, we were sweaty and soaked, because it had rained all night. When it cleared, I asked if I might bathe in the river. The men went into the jungle. I remained with Ana. When I was washing my hair, I heard a man's voice: "Welcome, comrade." He was wearing military garb; he was a nice young fellow, and had a country accent. He was carrying a G-3 semiautomatic rifle. I said to him: "Aren't you afraid to appear like that, in the open, by the river?" "Not so long as my pulse doesn't fail." Only 13 days later, when the M-19 staff and general directorate was being selected, I found out that this man, who is called Justo now and who might be Toribio tomorrow, was the one who had pretended to be an engineer, to hire the Aeropesca plane in Medellin, and who arranged the landing in La Guajira without any problems with the authorities, by paying \$60,000 (so he told me), pretending to be a member of the underworld. Justo was studying medicine, and spent the rural year in the jungle, with the guerrillas, practicing with peasants on the invasions of the settlements. He is the son of a retired military man, and is 24 years old. He told me that the entire operation with Aeropesca had been photographed, but that the machine with the material exploded upon the forced landing on the river, when they failed to detect from the air the field prepared for the plane, because they arrived when it was becoming dark, 2 hours later than planned. That mistake was critical to the Army's recovery, days later, of a quarter of the shipment that the guerrillas could not take into the jungle for lack of human resources for carrying it.

After the meeting with Justo, who had been mobilized with 12 men, everything happened precipitously. We traveled by day through the jungle, and at night there were camps set up in 5 minutes. It rained; there were swamps which swallowed up intruders like shifting sands; ants, attracted by sweat, which sucked blood from the victim; trees which looked like porcupines; and thirst, a great thirst, until one succumbed to the temptation of the water in the streams, impelling one to drink without regard for amoebas or small infectious-contagious animals swarming nearby. "Don't do that, buddy," Javier told me. "Look, my pal Rosendo told me to greet the lady reporter with this little drink that I have kept." And he passed me the canteen with some whiskey. That was the only time that I was to see liquor in the jungle. The thirst is slaked with chocolate, black coffee and brown sugar water.

With Bateman Through the Jungle

With Jose Maria Catano, from RCN, and the EL TIEMPO correspondent in Florencia, we assumed that Bateman would make a spectacular appearance before the press, because

M-19 had also invited some foreign reporters. How little we knew about this leader's personality!

After 4 days of traveling through the jungle, I arrived at a camp surrounded by swamps. I could go no farther. "Rest, buddy," I was told by Orlando, an 18-year old boy who fired a bazooka at the Juanambu Battalion in Florencia. Then came Alejandro, the regional commander, dressed entirely in black. He looked at me with curiosity, and with a certain amount of amusement, upon finding me with mud up to my forehead. I shall never forget this Otti Patino, who made fun of my "rolo" accent all the time, and "threatened" me (taking me by the hair) that he would confiscate a roll of film with an indiscreet photograph. Patino is a guerrilla fighter who admits to being "petit-bourgeois" but who is fierce in combat.

I decide to take off the boot filled with muddy water. As I am doing this, there appears the almost legendary figure of the man most wanted by the Army: Jaime Bateman Cayon; the same "pal Rosendo" who sent me a drink of whiskey to comfort me; the same "Alonso" who was reelected general commander at the Eighth Conference; the same Pablo Garcia who signed M-19's communiques before the theft of the weapons.

There, in the middle of the jungle, I reproached him: "How is it possible for M-19 to shoot? Why did Capera order the killing of the two marines who had infiltrated the guerrillas?" Bateman replied that this matter would be discussed at the conference, and that this was not the proper time to give me any conclusion in advance.

Days later, at the height of the discussions, a high-ranking committee was to be formed, including lawyers, to draft the Military Ethics Code which, among other points, would establish the fundamental rules on the "enemy's" right to life and the decision to treat the Army's wounded first, before its own; to give the captive an opportunity to study the guerrilla movement, to explain to him the reason for its struggle, and then to let him go free, with the chance to join M-19 or return to the Army. Those accused of being torturers, or responsible for massacres or crimes against the people, will be guaranteed a people's court-martial, with all the regulations required by law: a prosecutor, members and a defender. And he will be shot only in the event that he is found guilty. The Geneva code of honor regarding prisoners of war will always be upheld.

The day after the meeting with Bateman, we started heading toward the camp assigned for M-19's Eighth Conference.

It was 0600 hours in the morning when the order was given to line up; and, at that time, I found a well-known woman in front of a group of 60 guerrilla fighters. She was giving categorical orders, without losing her femininity for a moment. She greeted me and it was then that I identified her. She was the doctor from Cauca University who was a member of the "Marcos Zambrano" commando unit which took over the Dominican Embassy, under orders from Rosemberg Pabon, the number one commander. During the entire period of the conference, she was to practice her profession, and treat at least three cases of malaria and five bites from ticks, insects which carry white leprosy in their venom.

Walking with Bateman through the jungle means keeping up a dizzying pace. "Hurry, buddy, hurry," he would say in the vanguard, the rear guard and the main group, where we special guests were located.

On that day, we stopped only for half an hour, when a herd of wild hogs, devouring everything in their path, called "manaos," went by the edge of the hill. It was only then that we put down our knapsacks and made jokes, while some of the female guerrillas took out two fans, which they keep as if they were treasures. It was one of the few times that I saw the women idle. They are always working with the men in the mess, preparing meals, or doing military work, such as guarding, scouting, etc.

On that night, a camp was put together. On the radio, we heard the ministers' "disclosures" before Belisario Betancur took office. We ate beside the fire, while the underwear and stockings of the male and female guerrillas dried.

The next day, we were to undertake the last activity before the opening of the conference. I would see Ivan Marino Ospina again; I would hear the national anthem; and, for the first time, I would see Bateman addressing his troops.

On 8 August, he delivered his 2-hour report to the conference: "Our proposals, which are apparently timely, have been making headway, showing that the causes of democracy, social justice and peace touch the focal point of the conflict between the people and the oligarchy, and between imperialism and the nation. Democracy, an essential cause of the socialist movement, has been recovered by the people after its sectarian abandonment, when it was considered 'bourgeois' by the orthodox revolutionaries. Democracy has ceased to be an epithet for demagoguery or sectarianism. Its essence, which goes to the heart of the social inequalities, which relates intimately to our country's dependence on the imperialists, which rebels against the domination of the vast majority of the population by a few, and which exalts the struggle for freedom, justice and peace, is alien to the oligarchical governments, and is alien to militarism and to the greed of the United States."

Eight days later, Jaime Bateman was to give us, Jesus Maria Catano and me, the letter addressed to President Belisario Betancur, in which he also states: "Today, we call upon the national government, all the political parties, the Church, the trade unions, the people's organizations and the guerrilla movements to hold a great national dialog, to reach national accord; because Colombia requires great solutions for its great problems. Therefore, M-19, despite the assassinations committed from safe positions and the militarization of the guerrilla zones, reiterates its willingness for dialog aimed at attaining peace for the fatherland."

On the fifth day of the conference, approval was given for the 'Simon Bolivar Coordinating Group,' charged with working for the unification of the guerrilla movements in the country. Ramiro Lucio, the intermediary between M-19 and President Carlos Lleras Restrepo at the time of the peace commission, proposed, and approval was given for an M-19 legal organization or commission, comprised of former political prisoners, for the purpose of giving an impetus to the movement's proposal for a great national dialog in search of peace in the country.

Next Installment:

ELN and the death of Gen Rincon Quinones. Hebert Bustamante and the Bitterman case. M-19's ideological pluralism and nationalism. Bateman discusses Nicaragua and Eden Pastora. The situation in El Salvador. International aid. The third alternative. The blockading of Cuba. Bateman's children.

[31 Aug 82 pp 10-17]

[Interview with M-19 Leader Jaime Bateman during the Eighth Conference of M-19, by Ligia Riveros; date and place not specified]

[Text] In this issue, Ligia Riveros completes the account of her experiences as an attendee at the guerrilla conference held somewhere in the southern jungles, including an interview with Jaime Bateman, obtained under threat of a possible raid by the Colombian Army, and amid tremendous mobilization difficulties. Finally, on page 54, the reporter gives M-19's version of the death of the linguist, Chester Bitterman, and ELN's account of that of Gen Ramon Arturo Rincon Quinones, who received the citizens' unanimous, angry rejection. At the end of last week, the government announced the reinstatement of the Peace Commission, to begin again a dialog aimed at achieving the country's pacification. We believe that Ligia's reportorial work will be a reference point indicating the intentions and expectations of the most wanted guerrilla leader in the country, and his movement.

Jaime Bateman Cayon speaks happily, with the same happiness that the Caribbean people have in their tone of voice. He does not smoke. He goes about the woods like a hare, forgetting that his right leg has an ulcer which he must cleanse often, resulting from a bullet wound sustained in the woods over 12 years ago, and treated with a graft in the Soviet Union. At the age of 25, he had his first weapon, a rifle. At 42, he still has time to put it aside and go to the movies. For example, he did not like "Caligula and Messalina," the last film that he saw.

He stresses dialog with the government, but not to discuss when, how and where the guerrillas are going to surrender their weapons. "That is not the problem," he claims. "These tools are irons, irons made of wood," and he hugs his M-1 carbine. "They are of no use for anything, if there is no one to handle them. And humans handle them. If humans do not have the desire to handle those rifles, there is no war. To put an end to that desire, the problems of the Colombian people must be solved. Mr Betancur says that he will solve them. We are waiting...." And Bateman, M-19's top-ranking chief, who carries in his pockets dental floss, four passports and five identity cards, dollars, military secrets and no love letters, Diners and BIC cards, a professional journalist's card (he says this jokingly but, at best, it is true), five driver's licenses, including two international ones, and his underpants, because they bother him in the woods, claims to be familiar with the country's problems. M-19 wants to discuss them in a national dialog with the new government: "It wants to talk about the 75 percent of Colombians who are undernourished, about the 7 million illiterates, about the 2 million unemployed, about what the housing program without a downpayment will be like and about where the resources are going to be procured to help the 1.5 million families without housing."

It is difficult to imagine Bateman in a position different from that of general commander of a guerrilla movement which gave so many headaches to the two previous governments. Nevertheless, he must be imagined differently: with his three children. They are between 14 and 20 years of age. The oldest, a rather reserved girl; the others, happy like their father, and said to be enthusiastic readers of books. They do not live in the country. Bateman carefully conceals any information about them, for fear that his children may pay the consequences for his rebellion.

One night, in front of the fire on which black coffee was being prepared, I learned about Bateman's children, and they also told me that, "under the table," the Venezuelan government has supposedly offered M-19 \$20 million for Bolivar's sword.

The guerrilla leader declares: "The sword belongs to the people! And it will not be returned to its place until there is social justice in every corner of Colombia."

I began this interview opposite a plastic bag filled with TNT, lying unattended beside a tree trunk, and in a complete state of emergency.

Carlos Lleras and Peace

[Question] Was peace about to be achieved through the mediation of former President Carlos Lleras Restrepo?

[Answer] Well, I think that progress was made, but many more talks were necessary. There was progress in the process of laying the groundwork for an agreement. The problem was not so easy. Many people still think that the problem is that of M-19. The problem is not one of M-19, and that must be emphasized. We think that any initiative which emanates from any political group or peace commission must have the conviction that the guerrillas are not destroyed, nor defeated, nor willing to give up. If the political situation changes, as everyone hopes, I think that some very important conditions will have to be created to open the peace process. Thus far, there have only been words. In the time of Carlos Lleras Restrepo, the difference lay in the fact that he was very direct and very sincere, and I believe that he had a real feeling for achieving peace. We are certain of that.

[Question] Did any meeting take place with him?

[Answer] It never took place. There was talk about a meeting in Villagarzon, at a certain date. A few hours earlier, we sent an intelligence service unit, and found that the airport had been militarized. We would have talked with Carlos Lleras anywhere in Colombia or abroad.

[Question] Are you really interested in your legalization, in being a political party?

[Answer] We have stated on several occasions that this would be ideal, but we are more concerned about the democratic openness, democratic channels, political liberties and solutions to the people's fundamental problems. That is why we are fighting. That is where we put the stress.

The 'Karina'

[Question] Tell me the truth about the "Karina." It was only learned that there was an encounter with the Navy in the Pacific. What really happened? Who sank the ship? Where had they purchased the weapons?

[Answer] The ship was carrying weapons that we had purchased in Portugal; not from the government, of course! The ship was intercepted by the Navy. The military encounter occurred. The order that the comrades had was not to let the ship fall into enemy hands. That was what they did, sinking the ship. It is for this reason that the battle lasted for 4 hours, which is the time that it takes for a ship to sink.

[Question] How many tons of weapons were they carrying, and where were they going to locate them?

[Answer] I don't know exactly how much weaponry there was. It was planned to go to the south, north and center of the country.

Remolino and the Weight of Conscience

[Question] At the Eighth Conference, you reported that, when M-19 was located in Remolino, a settlement in Orteguaza, there was an exchange of notes with the Army, challenging each other for a year. They won over you. The population was left defenseless. The Army arrived, and the population virtually disappeared, with only a few women remaining. Don't you feel it on your conscience to have taken possession of Remolino and, later, to have abandoned its people?

[Answer] We have not left the people alone; we have guerrillas there. Not in Remolino, because it is a very small town, but in the Orteguaza region we have a guerrilla column. We have not abandoned that front. Besides, one has so many things on his conscience....But the greatest weight that we have is the poverty that this country is experiencing: the inequalities, the injustices....That, indeed, is a weight. In battles there are deaths, but a revolution is not made merely by killing. The history of Colombia is filled with violence, hatred and revenge. We are not exempt from that. But the general policy of M-19, after the troops surrender, is to respect the prisoners' lives. We return them, we are not interested in holding them. You observed that the Military Ethics Code was approved at the conference. In addition, it was ruled that the minimal age for joining the guerrillas is 15 years.

M-19 and the Underworld

[Question] You have claimed that the guerrillas must not take drugs, and that no M-19 member does so. Why did M-19 do business with the underworld, with Jaime Guillot, to purchase weapons?

[Answer] We have never done business with the underworld. So many things are said in this world! Was it not claimed that the Cubans are obtaining cocaine from Guillot to transfer it later to Miami? Do you really think that this is true? Do you believe that Fidel Castro would involve his revolution, a moralist one if you will, in the cocaine traffic? Guillot was a friend of mine, as many people are. We attended school together. I don't know whether Jaime Guillot is a member of the underworld. I could not say that. The only thing I would say is that we purchased the weapons from some dealers from around here, some Colombians.

Unity of Guerrilla Movements

[Question] M-19 has requested dialog for peace, and the government and all of us Colombians want peace. At the Eighth Conference, approval was given for the "Simon Bolivar National Coordinating Group," to promote the unity of the guerrilla movements. Don't you think that this would complicate the peace negotiations?

[Answer] That depends on the government, you can be sure of it. If there exists the famous democratic openness, there will be dialog. If there is dialog, I don't

think that there is anyone with 2 centimeters of common sense who would not go to the discussion table. No one is opposed to that, absolutely no one. If anyone is afraid of a conference table, it is simply because he is not sure of his proposals. M-19 is sure that it is asking for what is just, and if they invite us to hold dialog, we shall do so with great pleasure, as we have always been willing to do.

[Question] On the cassette tapes that you send to your members, you always talk about the formation of an army of the people. At this moment, during this conference which is under an emergency, at this hour (0645 hours in the morning) when we expect the Armed Forces helicopters to fly over the area and detect us, do you really consider it possible to form a true "army of the people"? How would you achieve it?

[Answer] By fighting... The army of the people must be created in the heat of battle. The situation that we are undergoing at present is not abnormal. We experience it every day. What is abnormal is when they don't pursue us. If they do so, it is for some reason. If they surround us, that is nothing new; it is constant. I repeat, what you are experiencing with us at this time is nothing unusual.

[Question] Returning to the unification of the guerrilla movements, it seems to me that there is a difference in view between M-19 and the other guerrilla organizations, such as ELN. Why hasn't the armed struggle advanced in Colombia, after 20 years of existence?

[Answer] Paradoxically, the differences are not related to programs, as might be thought. Among the guerrilla movements as a whole, there are criteria for forming a politico-military alliance: the struggle against imperialism, against the enemies of the people, against anti-democracy, torture and violation of human rights. All the foregoing are general points of policy on which the guerrillas are totally agreed. The difference begins with the action. Some guerrillas think that it is necessary to wait for a particular time in the political situation to engage in military offensives. They are guerrillas that keep pace with Colombian politics: if there is an electoral process, then a truce must be made. Other guerrillas, on the contrary, think that there must be military action. There are five guerrilla groups, and 25 fronts, in Colombia. That would mean that if all the guerrillas were to engage in a minimum of military activity, the country would be in a totally different situation. Nevertheless, that is not happening. For this reason, those guerrillas, as a whole, have a critical attitude toward M-19: in the first place, because it is not a Marxist-Leninist movement; and, secondly, because it is not a movement with socialism as a cause. So when there is talk of democracy, they think that it is synonymous with the bourgeoisie. We consider that an ideological trap. We think that the concept of democracy is a revolutionary concept, that must be claimed; a concept that the bourgeoisie stole from the revolutionaries as a cause. The bourgeoisie has never been able to implement that criterion of democracy, nor will it ever succeed in doing so; because the greatest inequalities in America exist precisely in the countries where there is talk of democracy, beginning with the United States. I don't think that many of those differences with the guerrilla movements should be an obstacle, if one considers the fact that the struggle must be carried out militarily. But it is necessary to reach politico-military agreements. We shall see what effect the "National Coordinating Group

of Guerrilla Organizations," which the conference approved, will have. We believe that this agreement must be made on minimal bases.

[Question] What are those minimal bases?

[Answer] First, a program of struggle for democracy, for political liberties and for the solution of the people's fundamental problems. Second, a program whereby the government will hold dialog with the guerrillas. Third, a program that will lead to the release of all the political prisoners. Fourth, if all the foregoing is not carried out, a coordination of military efforts throughout the entire country; with all of us striking in a single direction, not in several directions, nor using different methods. All that is possible. However, there are other factors that I would call psychological, rather than anything else, which impede this unity. For example, suspicions, which prevent that unity from becoming a reality. But I believe that it will occur at the base, that it is occurring. The guerrillas are in this jungle, discussing and fraternizing. You saw here at this conference a group from ELN; you heard them, and you noted that there was total unanimity on key issues.

Difference Between M-19 and the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia]

[Question] There is a great difference between M-19 and the FARC in the military concept. Your movement calls for a concentration of forces on a single front. The FARC have 17 different fronts....

[Answer] Yes, that is the story of Colombia: thinking that, in this way, they are dividing the enemy's forces, and what happens is quite the contrary. It is we who are dividing the revolutionary movements too much. If 17 guerrilla fronts meant major military action, I would be in agreement; but, you must realize, that does not actually happen, but quite the contrary. There is no military activity. We have a single front, the one in the south; but we keep up constant activity. We are the enemy's focal point of concern in the country. That is what is involved, having a solid military force; having guerrillas who, in the process, are converted into a regular army. That is why we are not inclined toward having many guerrilla fronts. We do not consider that to be the problem. The problem is being able to wage a battle with the enemy, which there has been an unwillingness to wage in Colombia. But the notion that the guerrillas' problem is one of occupying territory is false. The problem is not one of territory, but of power, and force. Furthermore, M-19 operates in the rural and urban areas; we make no geographical distinctions. They have no purpose when an organization has decided to resort to weapons. One goes with everything, or one does not go at all. Marx said that many years ago. But that is not a problem for public discussion, nor an obstacle to unity. If the comrades in the FARC want to create 100 guerrilla fronts, let them do so. We are not opposed to that. We consider it a mistake, but it is absolutely no obstacle to M-19. Now, with the comrades in the ELN, things are different, because they have come from a process of internal crisis. In other words, the Army has not been able to liquidate any of the guerrilla groups that exist in the country. The guerrilla groups have self-destructed, which is something different. Consider how good the conditions are for the armed movement when, despite the partial defeats such as those at Anori, Narino and Choco, these setbacks have not meant the politico-military defeat of the guerrillas. The guerrillas are still a factor in the country's political situation, a very important factor; and they have been such in

the degree to which they have acted with greater force. It is for this reason that we tell those guerrillas: Do what you want, but let us act, let us act....

The Communist Party

[Question] The Colombian Communist Party is the only one that has an armed military apparatus, a unique situation in South America. How would you evaluate this experience?

[Answer] The Communist Party was founded on 17 June 1930. It has been the experience of Marxist and revolutionary struggles in Colombia. It is, moreover, the only party that has wanted to become consolidated as an opposition apparatus in Colombia. It is the only party that has had continuity to the point where, I think, it is turning into another traditional party. There are the three traditional parties that exist in Colombia, with the Liberal and the Conservative Parties. But it is a party burdened with many mistakes, and many defects. I think that the Communist Party has done some good things in this country, in the workers' struggle, the peasants' struggle and the struggle for land claims. But it has also made many mistakes, and it is still making them. The Communist Party's most serious mistake is attempting to hegemonize the political processes. There is a predisposition. I don't think that there is an anticommunist mentality; there is the position of the people not to let themselves be controlled. When the Communist Party makes its electoral alliances, it tries to control people. It controls them, and it ends up destroying those young movements such as "Attention" and "Socialist ANAPO [National Popular Alliance]": groups which want to emerge in the country so as to become set up as a socialist party.

Movements of a third tendency are absorbed, manipulated and eventually destroyed. I am not saying that the Communist Party does this consciously. It stems from the concept of hegemonizing the party's processes. That prevents the younger sectors of Colombian politics from emerging as an alternative.

[Question] But the "New Liberalism" is a new movement, which now has Luis Carlos Galan as an alternative....

[Answer] Of course. Luis Carlos Galan has a great democratic movement. He has succeeded in this because he refused an alliance with the Communist Party. But it is an electoral movement, not a political party.

[Question] In order to talk with the FARC about the unity of the guerrilla movements, is it necessary to talk with the Communist Party?

[Answer] For any alliance that is made in the country, on the armed level, it is necessary to talk with the Communist Party. The fact is that they say "no." But that is a different problem. This is a result of the violence, of the period in which the Communist Party was consolidating some areas of claims for land, on behalf of the peasants....areas which Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, a senator of the republic, called an "independent republic" at the time of the famous "Laso Plan." The Communist Party consolidated those areas of self-defense, and later converted them into guerrilla areas, as a result of the Colombian Army's invasion. All this has been a complex process, marked by armed action and legal action. Many people

think: why is there a Communist Party and an armed apparatus in Colombia?; because the system itself is inoculated against such things. The guerrillas become part of the institution, provided they do not act immoderately. When M-19 came into existence, note that there was a highly symptomatic aspect: when their armed struggle was carried out, and intensified, primarily in the rural areas, that balance between the legal struggle and the armed struggle was eliminated. Then, the armed struggle started to play a preponderant role in Colombian politics, and the Army called the Communist Party to account. The latter, after 20 years of struggle, declared a truce for the first time in its history; a military truce for 7 months, which was inconceivable. From what I have read, no one has declared such a long truce and without conditions; because it was unilateral. The FARC gained absolutely nothing. As a result of this, instead of winning votes, the Communist Party lost.

Nicaragua and Eden Pastora

[Question] At the Eighth Conference, there was talk all the time about M-19's nationalism. The Nicaraguan revolution preached the same thing, and now we see that there is press censorship, Russian influence, etc. Eden Pastora is now against his revolution.

[Answer] The Nicaraguan revolution has been harassed; they want to thwart it; it has too many powerful enemies, beginning with the United States. In Nicaragua, there is a statute on freedom of the press, and it starts by preventing people from telling lies. I don't think that Violeta Chamorro's family are walking saints. They represent the most radical sector. The Chamorros' EL NUEVO DIARIO was shut down because it provides false information. Nicaragua is a small, poor country, lacking in resources and destroyed by Somoza and now by American imperialists. There has been an invasion of Somozist forces against Nicaragua. Eden Pastora is also preparing people; his position is stupid, one of incredible opportunism. It so happens that Pastora changed his political line overnight. What he criticizes are matters of form, not of essence. What is vital is whether or not Nicaragua is progressing toward the solution of the main problems, such as health, education and jobs. I think that they are making an impressive effort.

[Question] Nicaragua is accepting aid from Russia and Cuba. Won't this create ideological dependence?

[Answer] I don't know why accepting loans from a foreign power means dependence. What is a country like Nicaragua, which has no resources, no reserves and nothing at all, to do? It is not only the Russians who are giving money to the Nicaraguans. The Germans, French and Spaniards are also doing so and, obviously, Cuba is backing them. Don't you see that it is a revolutionary process? They are giving them food, rice, doctors and teachers. Then when that happens, they claim that it is intervention. Nicaragua has begged the world to help it. It has just lost billions of cordobas, because its crops were destroyed by the last rainfall, 3 months ago. Where is the international aid? Why aren't the industrialized countries helping Nicaragua? I think that the Nicaraguans have a very clearcut independent position. They are maintaining ideological pluralism and the people's right to self-determination. But, at the same time, it is a revolutionary position. That is why the United States is not helping them.

Imperialism

[Question] To achieve total independence from the United States or from Russia, wouldn't the solution be the union of the Latin American countries?

[Answer] Well, yes, but with what resources? Latin America owes the United States \$800 billion; Brazil alone owes it \$50 billion. Where would Latin America obtain funds to provide for its development? Brazil is in debt for it to the North Americans, and so is Argentina. Latin America's dependence on the United States is obvious; it is not a matter of choice. It is a matter of the American imperialists' belief that, to prevent these countries from succumbing to the notorious "Russian bear," it must help their people. Now, here in Colombia, we don't know what forces are going to be part of a pluralistic democratic process. We have oil; the coal resources are impressive. If the revolution should triumph, that could take care of our industrial takeoff, provided we negotiate with the imperialists for the loans that would benefit the country. Understandably, they would win; but the country would also benefit, by God.

[Question] You attack the imperialists, and right now you are saying that you would negotiate with them. Isn't that position contradictory?

[Answer] M-19 clearly recognizes that it is necessary to negotiate with the American imperialists. At the Eighth Conference, we proposed the renegotiation of El Cerrejon, and also the renegotiation of all the American investment plans in Colombia, which are becoming more numerous every day. In the past, the United States invested \$1.00 and took \$7.00; now, it takes \$9.00 or \$10.00. What benefit does the country accrue? That is a common sense matter. But if the imperialists blockade us, invade us or engage in acts of terrorism against us, we shall have recourse to any country in the world that is willing to help us. I am not talking about Russia; I am talking about any country. Any one that wants to help must negotiate with us, and if those negotiations suit the country, we shall engage in them.

Third Alternative: Social Democracy

[Question] So that a revolution will not succumb to the power of the "Russian bear," as we have already seen happen in the case of Cuba and Nicaragua, the United States does not assist it. What would the third alternative be for attaining independence?

[Answer] Social democracy. German capital is very desirous of expanding in the world. Would that it were possible, so as not to have to resort to the Soviet Union, nor to be McCarthyized, and have it said that we are in the Communist embrace. At the moment of truth, it does not matter at all to people in whose embrace they are, provided their problems of education, health and poverty are solved. The people are dying of hunger, of hunger. Just imagine: Cuba has had 22 years of revolution; five American governments have elapsed, and it is still going strong, progressing, with immense difficulties, but progressing despite the United States' blockade. Our movement is nationalist; it is not Marxist-Leninist. We have ideological pluralism; 80 percent of the militants are Catholics.

Cards on the Table

[Question] Let's suppose that you are in the government, and the guerrilla movements are at the table where the dialog for attaining peace is being held. Let's show the cards. You say that you will not surrender your weapons, because they are tools and they have no value without humans. How sincere are you in your proposal for dialog?

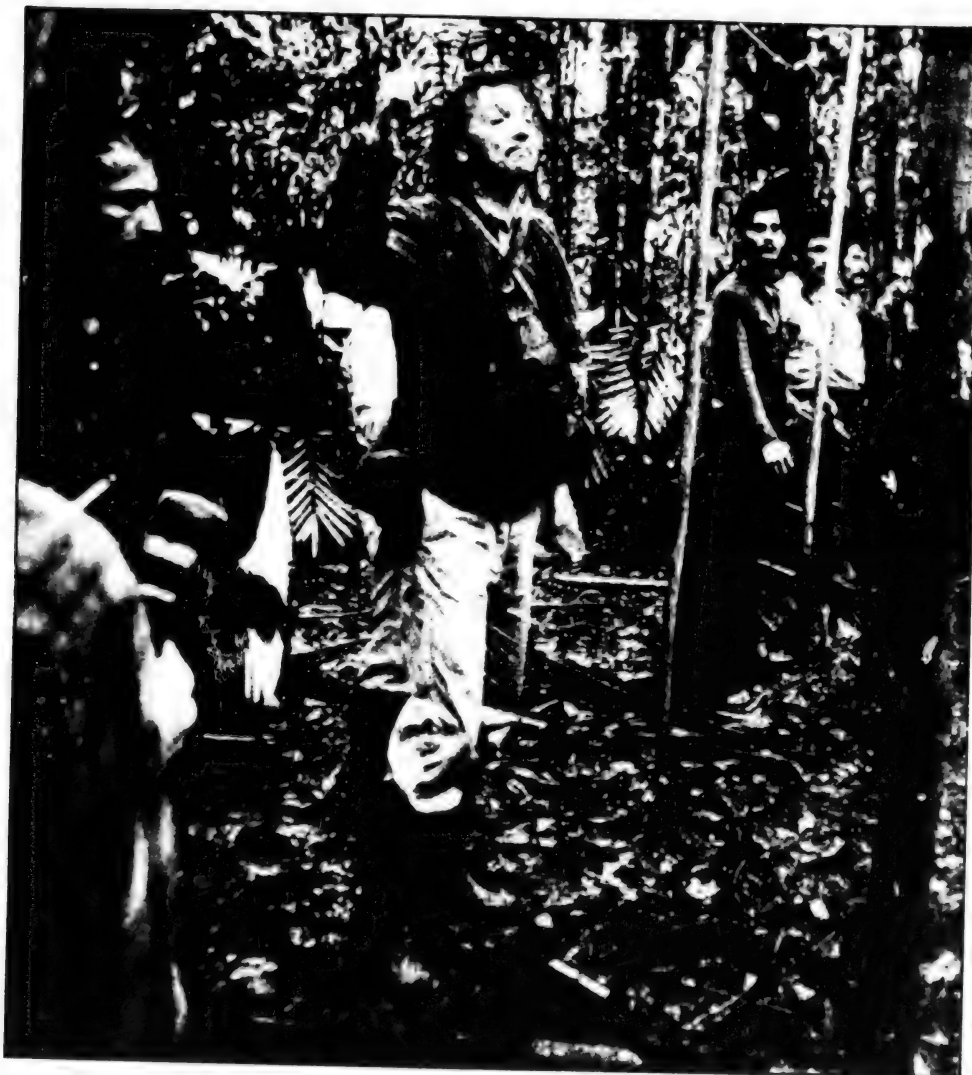
[Answer] M-19 put its cards on the table some time ago. The country is thoroughly familiar with them. We have always talked about peace. Now, it depends on the government. The same system and the same political parties are continuing in Colombia. What has changed? One man. The fact that Belisario Betancur has a different style is something else; but let him prove it in practice, when he talks at the conference table, when he talks with deeds, with realities. Let him say whether there is going to be a real democratic openness. That is definitive for peace to exist in Colombia. Let them say what the decrees for attaining solutions to the people's problems are. We don't want to discuss only M-19's problem, nor its legalization. That is only part of the discussion. The priority aspect is the solution to poverty, unemployment, health and hunger....

[Question] What was the origin of the idea for RTV, Radio Venceremos? What has M-19 achieved with the jamming?

[Answer] It is an old idea. The Algerians used it in the war of liberation; and it was later used by the Montoneros in Argentina and MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] in Chile. Other people have used this method. M-19 has achieved a token appearance and, as a general of the republic commented, we have taken ourselves into people's homes.

[Question] Do you use make-up or disguise yourself so as not to be recognized when you go to cities and airports?

[Answer] I don't think that I do (with a loud laugh). I assure you, who have lived near me for 15 days, and who have traveled in the woods with me, that they would never identify me at an airport.



The Eighth Conference opened with the national anthem and the raising of the Colombian and M-19 flags. Jaime Bateman addresses his troops in fundamental, logical terms: "Let anyone who does not join the struggle spend his entire life selling turnovers."



Jaime Bateman is uncomplicated, but demanding in military matters. He marries couples, so as to avoid the lack of morality among his troops.



En plena emergencia, Bateman con "Raul", Germán Rojas, comandantes del frente sur, analizan la situación. A la izqda, Ligia Riveros de CROMOS.

At the height of an emergency, Bateman with "Raul" German Rojas, commander of the southern front, analyze the situation. In the rear, Ligia Riveros from CROMOS.



Hebert Bustamante was at the conference.
Any disagreement was cleared up.



This is Ivan Marino Ospina, who
escaped from La Picota in June
1980.



Three guerrillas, dressed as
doctors, freed Gustavo
Arias in Bogota, in 1981.



This pose is typical of the M-19 commander, who always keeps a grenade in the left pocket of his jacket.



In this kind of "jungle office," the text of the letter sent by Bateman to the president of the republic, to indicate to him the factors necessary for peace, was typewritten.



The M-19 staff consists of Jaime Bateman C., Ivan Marino Ospina and German Rojas. Here, the guerrilla chief is speaking.

2909

CSO: 3010/2327

U.S. SAID TO BE PLANNING 'SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA'

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 16 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] New York, 16 Aug--The United States Congress approved an appropriations bill which also provides for a change in the name of the United States Information Agency to the United States International Communications Agency.

The appropriations for fiscal years 1982, and 1983, approved by a voice vote, were allocated to the State Department, the United States International Communications Agency (USICA) and the Board for International Radio Broadcasting (BIB).

The bill before Congress was approved by the Senate on 8 August and now awaits the signature of President Ronald Reagan.

The bill authorizes a total of \$2.8 billion for fiscal year 1982 and \$2.9 billion for 1983.

It forbids the use of United States funds assigned to international organizations for activities that--it says--would help the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

It also includes a new "Law of Missions Abroad" which stipulates the creation of an office for diplomatic delegations under the auspices of the State Department, which will review and control the operations of these United States missions abroad.

It also extends the validity of U.S. passports from 5 to 10 years and demands the integration of the Board for International Broadcasting, the board of directors of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, which function under consultation with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States, and which are responsible for disseminating subversive propaganda against socialist countries.

Recently, the United States House of Representatives approved President Ronald Reagan's plan for the creation of a radio station intended to transmit diversionary news prejudicial to the Cuban people and government.

U.S. 'THREATS' AGAINST COUNTRY SCORED

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 16 Aug 82 p 3

[Commentary by Arnaldo Morales Capo: "Hysterics and New Threats Against Cuba"]

[Text] Hysterical pronouncements are often voiced by important persons and officials in the United States against expansionism, against the people's struggle for liberation, against Socialism and most especially against the Cuban Revolution. Leading these utterances is President Reagan himself.

Hearing references to the supposed Soviet threat, the Marxist danger, the Cuban interference and other similar sayings from the mouths of Shultz, Weinberger, Bush and their associates is becoming a daily occurrence. Now, to this chorus the U.S. Senate itself has been added. After lengthy discussions rampant with trivialities in which a few sensible thoughts were drowned, the aforementioned legislative body approved a resolution favoring the employment of "all the means" within the government's reach, including the sending of troops, to oppose the alleged Cuban threat on the continent.

After talking about such worn-out subjects as "the security of the United States" and the "self-determination of the Cuban people", the resolution cynically calls for the "Cubans who love freedom" to cooperate with the OAS and the United States in a crude plot.

But what is really behind such gibberish? What is the aim of the Senate's hawks? Of course, a Republican majority predominates in this legislative body, that is to say, the best known of Reagan's associates in his risky politics, the most reactionary representatives of the groups in power in the empire.

The reasons have been given by press releases of the last few days, which mention Reagan's labored plan to "help" Central America and the Caribbean, which includes \$350 million of the entire U.S. budget, an amount that the president himself wants to control personally. It is no secret either that the yankee leader has engaged in all kinds of maneuvers to help the genocidal regime in El Salvador, the puppet of Honduras and the no less criminal one in Guatemala.

The reasons? To drown in blood the people's rebellion in those countries and consolidate his destabilizing and aggressive plan against the Sandinist process in Nicaragua. In regard to this, the Pentagon and the CIA have done unspeakable things. From the financing of bands of delinquents and murderers to the direct action of the so-called U.S. advisors. And since they cannot convince public opinion of the failure of such plans, they invent and reinvent the argument of the "Cuban military threat". They vainly believe that by pouring in dollars anew they will save their lackeys in the region and that with a campaign of calumnies soon to be broadcasted through the so-called Radio Marti, they will confuse and subjugate the revolutionary faith and courage of the Cuban people. But since there is no going back in the march of history, ridicule and failure again await them.

Meanwhile a chorus of hawks will continue trying new campaigns of lies and threats, the war hysteria will continue to occupy the top level of Washinton's foreign policy and the president himself will continue to ask for new and fabulous sums of money from the budget, but in the end, it will be the people, including those in the United States, who will have the last and irreversible word.

9907

CSO: 3010/2285

MALMIERCA SCORES U.S. DECISION ON NAM DELEGATION

Havana TRIBUNA DE LA HABANA in Spanish 17 Aug 82 p 3

[Text] United Nations, August (PL)--Cuba characterized as a new act of conceit and imperialistic arrogance, the United States' decision not to receive the delegation of the Nonaligned Nations Movement if Cuba and Nicaragua form part of it.

In a speech before the General Assembly's seventh emergency session on the question of Palestine, Cuba's minister of foreign affairs, Isidoro Malmierca stated that "Israel is preventing the plenary committee from visiting Beirut and the United States is preventing it from visiting Washinton".

This - specified Malmierca - is normal. They are strategic allies and are acting accordingly.

During his speech the Cuban minister said that the meeting of the Nonaligned Nations Movement that was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from last 5 July to 17 July established a ministerial committee made up of nine nonaligned countries.

This committee, he emphasized, was given the task of traveling to Lebanon to hold discussions with the Lebanese Government and with the leaders of the PLO.

Malmierca added that in spite of repeated efforts, the committee was prevented by Israeli occupation forces from traveling to Lebanon and its capital Beirut.

He said that the committee established contact with member nations of the Security Council and held interviews with the representatives designated for this purpose by the Governments of France, the Soviet Union and Poland.

The committee's objective in holding these meetings, he stated, is to contribute to finding an immediate, just and overall solution to the present aggression and to the Palestinian problem and to broaden the support and help from the world to the Palestinian people.

The committee received the answer from Washington that neither the president nor the secretary of state had enough time to meet with the nine ministers from the nonaligned nations and that some other official would receive them, but that the ministers from Cuba and Nicaragua should not be part of the delegation, said Malmierca.

Upon pointing out that this new manifestation of haughtiness and imperialistic arrogance did not surprise the Cuban Government, Malmierca added that the position taken by the United States leaders is normal, inasmuch as Washington and Tel Aviv are strategic allies and act accordingly.

The committee, he said, will maintain contact with the rest of the member nations of the Security Council as well as with the general secretary of the UN, the president of the Security Council and the president of the special committee on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Finally Malmierca recalled that the meeting of the ministers of the nonaligned nations that took place in Nicosia recommended that the present extraordinary session on Palestine of the General Assembly should call for an international meeting on the Palestinian problem, with universal participation, to be held in 1983.

9907

CSO: 3010/2285

U.S. SAID TO BE TESTING SECRET CHEMICAL WEAPON

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 18 Aug 82 p 8

[Text] Moscow, 17 Aug--The weekly LITERATURNAYA GAZETA denounces today that new secret chemical weapon systems are being developed in a military laboratory near the city of Aberdeen, Maryland, U.S.A.

On a 4,000-hectare tract fenced with barbed wire and protected by armed guards on the Chesapeake Bay shore, a group of biochemists produce and experiment with combat toxic agents, the publication says.

More than 2,400 lethal gases have been developed and stored in that center, the largest in the United States, as well as numerous bacteriological weapons that include toxins of encephalomyelitis, smallpox, tuberculosis, botulism, anthrax, brucellosis and typhoid.

In the summer of 1981, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA says, Col Walter Mantenmeier, director of the Aberdeen proving grounds laboratory, publicly admitted that his subordinates were working on biological programs for military use.

The laboratory has a budget of millions of dollars to test on animals the various toxins that are produced. It recently recieved 100 pigs and 1,000 rabbits for testing the lethal potential of its most recent weapon--a toxin named "Luisite," designed to kill people on a mass scale, the weekly underscores.

8414

CSO: 3010/2291

U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN BEIRUT PEACE EFFORT SCORED

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 13 Aug 82 p 6

[Commentary by Juan Dufflar: "The Armies of Peace"]

[Text] If Guernica and Lidice became symbols of Nazifascist barbarism, and Hiroshima and Nagasaki forever branded U.S. imperialism with the mark of the beast, Beirut is today the most perfect expression of the genocidal character of the Zionist regime.

The massive and ruthless bombings against the Palestinian-Lebanese civilian population, the thousands killed and mutilated, the men, women and children massacred without reason, the homes destroyed and the families dispersed by the Israeli aggressors have served to show the world the moral bankruptcy of the governments of Menachem Begin and Ronald Reagan.

The criminal inclination of imperialism and Zionism bears out the warning of the great German poet Bertolt Brecht, when he foresaw the potential danger of the emergence of a new fascism: "Men, do not celebrate yet the defeat of that which dominated us until a short time ago! Although the world rose and stopped the bastard, the bitch that bore him is again in heat."

With Yankee imperialism as the midwife, the Zionist beast was born and grew up. It was the U.S. Government that armed and spurred on the insatiable expansionist cravings of the Israeli State.

There has not been single war of aggression waged by the Zionists against the Arab countries that has been started without the knowledge, approval and full moral and material support of the various U.S. administrations.

The United States turned that country into a military power by supplying it with substantial, modern and powerful arms that flow in an inexhaustible stream from Washington to Tel Aviv.

United in a strategic military alliance, they make up an extremely aggressive and dangerous pair for the nations of the Middle East and Near East and, in fact, for all mankind. If they are not stopped in time, they will turn the whole planet into a giant Beirut.

The aggressive resolution approved by the U.S. Senate last Wednesday not only threatens Cuba with armed attacks, but also opens the door to Yankee intervention in Central America and creates a highly explosive situation for hemispheric peace.

In their demented logic, the U.S. imperialists believe that "war, not peace, is the norm that rules international affairs" and "relaxation of tension is death."

This makes it more necessary that the world rise again to do away with the actual threat of neofascism.

In the United States and Israel themselves, protests are being staged against the savage aggression against Lebanon, and sensible voices are being raised calling for a curbing of the insane arms race, which is capable of causing a universal nuclear holocaust.

Mankind urgently demands that attention be paid to the realistic proposals of the Soviet Union, the United Nations, the Movement of Nonaligned Countries and all peace-loving forces which advocate a climate of relaxation of international tension that is indispensable for the welfare and progress of nations.

Let us support with unswerving determination the lofty initiative of the WFTU, which has made an appeal to declare 1 September--anniversary of the outbreak of World War II--the Day of Peace, and to hold antiwar demonstrations and meetings in every country on that date.

"Peace also has its armies," Jose Marti declared. They are made up of hundreds of millions of men and women all over the universe who are ready to fight for disarmament and against war.

Those armies, like the ones making up the "'82 Peace March," should help deter the aggressive hand and thwart the heinous designs of imperialism.

8414

CSO: 3010/2291

MILITARY ENTERPRISE ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 12 Aug 82, No 32 p 57

[Text] The Emilio Barcenas Pier Military Industrial Enterprise commemorated the 10th anniversary of its founding with a political-cultural act that was presided over by Brig Gen Francisco Cruz Boursac, deputy minister for armament and technique of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces].

After praising the three colleagues who founded this military industrial enterprise during the course of the event, the secretary general of the labor union section, Giraldo Rodrigueaz Garica, made known a commitment of all the workers which depicts the spirit of increasing efficiency and productivity to help ensure the combat readiness of the FAR.

The summation was delivered by Lt Col Jose Bidarrausaga, who underscored the work of this collective during 10 years of sustained effort. "The great effort that all of you have exerted to fulfill and surpass the production plans and to constantly increase productivity is evident," he underscored.

In his address, he dealt with aspects of the economic incentive fund of the enterprise and the contribution of Socialist Emulation to the fulfillment of all the assigned tasks and functions. Lt Col Jose Bidarrausaga referred also to the important role being played by the movement of rationalizers and innovators to ensure fulfillment of the production plans.

He acknowledged the meritorious work performed by the party and the UJC at the enterprise, and to the invaluable aid provided by the Soviet military specialists and the political and mass organizations of the municipality where the Emilio Barcenas Pier Military Industrial Enterprise is located.

Finally, he congratulated all the chiefs, officers, warrant officers, sergeants, privates and civilian workers in the name of the minister of the FAR, and exhorted them to continue performing the tasks assigned to them with the same enthusiasm and excellence.

8414

CSO: 3010/2334

ACTIVITIES OF MILITARY TRAINING CENTERS NOTED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 19 Aug 82, No 33, pp 11-13

[Article by Ruben Fonseca: "Twenty Years of Training FAR Cadres"]

[Text] The CEM [Military Training Centers] in our country have been fulfilling the honorable mission of training military cadres politically, technically and scientifically to defend the conquests of the working class and all the people. Thousands of highly skilled new officers leave their classrooms annually to take command of small units and educate the troops politically and militarily.

It was not an easy task to achieve the present development. It was necessary to travel a long and difficult road filled with obstacles and inexperience at the beginning. Due to the valuable collaboration of Soviet military specialists and the selfless work of the cadre of Cuban teachers, the FAR CEM have accumulated the necessary experience in more than two decades of work.

Many courageous officers are on the list of those who, with their work and dedication, contribute to this development achieved by the CEM. Many of them, experienced teachers today, began this road of military education as students in the training courses for military cadres in the first years of the revolution. This is the case of Col Jose Palacios Suarez, Col Moises Velazquez Gonzalez and Col Segundo Melo Vera who recently received certificates recognizing them for 20 years of service in education signed by Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the FAR.

These educators summarize the experiences of all those who devote themselves to the noble and important task of education.

These 20 years of intensive revolutionary and educational activity have permitted them to be closely tied to training officers and, at the same time, increase their own knowledge.

According to Col Jose Palacios, the recognition received is a stimulus for those who have devoted their work and effort from the very first days of the triumph of the revolution to training command cadres and officers capable of carrying out the most varied tasks, no matter how difficult.

The advancement of the military teachers is one of the factors of the prestige of the CEM. Colonel Palacios Suarez referred to this:

"We are now involved in increasing the knowledge of the educational personnel because in 1978 our center went to a higher level through an agreement by the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers. This is the result of the development of our FAR which demands highly trained command cadres, the technical equipment that increases in different units and the needs themselves of the military sciences that demand knowledge in the graduates from our centers in accord with the complexity of the tasks of combat and political training and the education of the personnel."

This year the first advanced level students of that center graduated. They are engineering officers in different commands who studied for 4 years.

Now the Gen Antonio Maceo Interservice School has teachers that are doctoral candidates in military sciences, technology, philosophy and economics. Another group is preparing for its candidacy in Cuba, the USSR and other socialist countries.

In the first years after the triumph of the revolution, the need arose to train command cadres with a military skill that aided demanding troop leadership. We recall that when the first officers courses and later the CEM began, there was hardly any material base of study. Today the development achieved in this is surprising. Colonel Palacios told us about this:

"Since the founding of the CEM, specifically the Interservice School in 1968, there has been work on the development of the material base of study in the field without neglecting the training of the students. There are now different ranges for engineering, small tank fire, infantry, communications, anti-incendiary practice, antitank practice, motordromes, tankdromes and others still under construction."

The material base of study, the improvement in the living conditions of the personnel and the educational work are part of a total aimed at giving better training to the future FAR officers.

The Interservice School has made the commitment to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its constitution on 7 February 1983; it has been working on that this year. For that reason, the tasks proposed extend to educational work, political-ideological work with the personnel, support services and improvement of living conditions.

Col Moises Velazquez now holds the rank of head professor. He has taken several advanced courses and now is studying for a doctorate in military sciences. He is another of those men who have devoted their entire lives to education within the FAR. He taught his first classes as a student of the cadet course that began in Managua in 1960. At that time, the National Revolutionary Militia were organized in the work centers and he was assigned to give them classes. Later, with other comrades, he instructed the militia leaders in Matanzas. In his experience as a teacher, he always affectionately remembered the teachers of those first years because they were the ones who transmitted the initial knowledge to him. One of the things that makes him most enthusiastic is to meet the comrades he taught and to see how they respect him and

thank him for the training they received. This is also true for him when he expresses the affection he feels for the Soviet military specialists who have helped our teachers increase their mastery of pedagogic work.

Col Moises Velazquez feels that a young officer, an educator graduating from our CEM, "is a chief of a small unit and, at the same time, an educator of the soldiers that the fatherland put under his responsibility.

"I advise that comrade who is incorporated or reincorporated in the work of the FAR to never feel satisfied with the knowledge acquired. To achieve his objectives, he must constantly perfect his study methods and scientific research. He must remember a basic point: independent study is the basis of the culture of a teacher. To achieve this, the willingness that each comrade has to devote himself as much as possible to study and, at the same time, to achieve adequate exploitation of all his activities is essential. Therefore, the studies of the teacher are an inherent quality in his profession. When he has clear awareness of this role that he plays, advancement becomes a pleasure and a need of all the officers."

The significance that being a teacher has for him lies in the high requirements that permit him to fulfill the objectives that our party and the state set for an educator. The link between words and deeds and convictions and actions is the basis of his moral prestige.

"The development of education in the FAR is assumed because there are men who faithfully followed party policy in this sense. We remember what the first courses were like when a teacher had to prepare himself the night before to give the classes in the morning. We taught starting almost from zero; we were learning at the same time.

"Along with the development of our FAR, the improvement of military educational institutions was worked on. This led to specialization of teachers in different subjects, etc. At this time we have CEM that are recognized by other countries for their high educational level."

Col Segundo Melo Vera is another of the educators that has a long career in training military cadres.

His beginning in education was at the Granma Base, one of the first courses after the victory of the revolution. He taught tactics to members of the Rebel Army and to the first antiaircraft artillerymen.

Educational work for 20 years, sometimes as a teacher and other times as an organizer, gave him the opportunity to help develop our FAR in training cadres and, at the same time, increase his educational level and political, military and technical knowledge. At the triumph of our revolution, his knowledge did not go beyond fifth grade. Today he has advanced cultural and military education.

When he spoke of the facilities of the youth to study now, he stated that first it was necessary to travel a long, complicated road filled with difficulties.

He added: "However, this road served as the beginning so that other comrades could travel along it toward the higher echelons of a military career.

"The activity of our military education teachers also extends to the advanced education centers in the country where military chairs were established. There they teach military training to reserve officers at the same time many are studying in advanced education. This type of training is also done in technological and preuniversity centers in the country where the students are offered beginning military courses."

Colonel Melo Vera added: "Without question, expansion and improvement of the military education system is an important factor in the defensive strength of the FAR so that the FAR can fulfill its role of guaranteeing the conquests of our working people. The importance of the work of the Soviet educators and the aid they have given to the advancement of Cuban military professors stands out. This has yielded highly skilled officers."

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TRAINING ACTIVITIES OF MINESWEEPER NOTED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 19 Aug 82, No 33, pp 30-33

[Article by Mario Rodriguez: "Sappers in the Sea"]

[Text] For the crew of the modern minesweeper, the year of instruction that just ended was filled with very useful experience for increased combat readiness and ability.

This is revealed in the ability of the crewmen, in the clockwork precision with which each of them undertakes fulfillment of the complex missions assigned and in the skill with which the ship instruments are handled.

Above all, there is something visible at first glance--the magnificent combat unity among the different members of the small unit.

Of course, the achievement of this important requirement that must characterize the life and activity of every military collective is not due to chance but the fruit of patient, well directed work.

The unity of the personnel is one of the aspects that the chiefs, officers and political organizations concentrate on. There is not and cannot be efficient fulfillment of a combat mission without it.

On Board

The hands of the clock showed a little after 1600 hours. However, the sun was still felt persistently, lessened at intervals by the cool sea breezes from the bay. Below deck, everything was activity.

The seamen, sheathed in their work suits, were involved in different jobs on the dock as well as on the ships lining the long dock.

Without anyone explaining it to us, we understood the importance of this activity aimed at maintaining combat technology at the top coefficient of readiness to fulfill any mission assigned.

Frigate Lt Daniel Dumoy Riveri explained to us:

"For the unit to fulfill the mission assigned, it is necessary to undertake an entire series of preparations of greater or lesser complexity.

"Here possible damage is repaired and the liquid reserves and food stores are resupplied. In other words, technology for navigation and the fulfillment of any combat or training mission is appropriately prepared."

We were soon on board. In a few seconds, the methodological activity would begin a new year of instruction.

During it, the necessary procedures to insure the readiness of the ship as well as the fulfillment of one of the first tasks of the combat training program would be put into practice.

The preparatory phase began with the supply of all liquid reserves--oil, water and fuel. This operation was done in rapid sequence since it was part of the time norms established to guarantee full combat readiness.

When the ship was completely restocked, the commander met with the crew and presented the assigned mission.

This brief contact also verified the training of the personnel.

The young officer told us later: "This is also necessary." He added:

"The degree of automation of these units and the complexity of the work which has really advanced demand that the technical training of the personnel always remain within the established parameters."

His statement is an undebatable reality. In this type of unit, the technical preparation of the personnel combined with iron discipline are elements that must always be present.

Every man in the crew must carry out orders with precision and diligence since the slightest tardiness or imprecision can have serious consequences, especially when the unit is carrying out a risky combat mission.

Discipline is also shown in the strictest observance of safety measures and in the fulfillment of technical norms. It is a demand in this type of work and, of course, one of the most important premises for the achievement of success. The least little mistake can bring fatal consequences.

Finally, Frigate Lieutenant Dumoy proceeded to check out the entire ship. Each one of the instruments, equipment and accessories must guarantee optimum functioning. A little later, his voice was heard giving the first orders:

"Take combat positions!

"Lift ropes!

"Weigh anchor!

"Rudder 15 to port! Both engines ahead!"

The ship slowly but surely left the dock where it was berthed. Little by little, the bow aimed toward the region where the practice actions would be carried out.

During the crossing, the different parameters of the equipment on board would be again verified. Finally, the dragging maneuver began. "The plowmen of the sea" started their work.

Return to Port

The members of the crew lined up on the deck. Frigate Lieutenant Dumoy, as was custom, discussed the most outstanding experiences of the activity that had just ended. He explained some details in which it was still necessary to show greater care and meticulousness. He congratulated the most outstanding workers.

These had to include seaman Asdrubal Perez Rico who was acting as crew chief.

As so many other times, the task presented to the young communist Perez Rico was carried out to the letter and with all the dynamism that was characteristic of him.

The seaman indicated: "Here in the crew we act as a single man." He added:

"It is also a demonstration of the camaraderie and mutual understanding in the collective

"Together we have carried out the most complex missions and together we put our small unit in the most distinguished place in the socialist emulation.

"Of course, each one of us is aware that the action of the rest of the naval units depends on the efficiency of our work--thus the concern and care we put in our activity."

Perez Rico then told us of his inclination for the maritime profession which, according to him, requires discipline, determination and desire.

"To be a member of our Revolutionary Navy implies a great responsibility to the fatherland since we always find ourselves and we will always find ourselves on the first line of defense of our seas. I love this specialty and I am proud of it."

"Your greatest emotion?"

"When the ship leaves the pier and, after hoisting the colors, lines up its bow toward fulfillment of a new mission."

The unit was ready to dock. We only had a little time left but it was sufficient to exchange some last impressions with Frigate Lieutenant Dumoy Riveri.

In our last dialogue we expressed to him our good impression of the chance to share with them and to verify in daily work the great human quality of the crewmen and their firm willingness to achieve greater successes in combat and political training.

Dumoy could not hide the pride that he feels for these men whom, with so much dedication, respect and demand, he has helped educate as true seamen and communists. In response to our words, he only added:

"The boys are magnificent, worthy of the navy and of /fatherland or death/ [in boldface] as our commander in chief exhorts us."

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ACTIVITIES OF ANTIAIRCRAFT UNIT DESCRIBED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 19 Aug 82, No 33, pp 38-40

[Article by Lesmes La Rosa: "Like a Single Man"]

[Text] Combative joy. The antiaircraft artillerymen in this unit, especially in Battery No. 2, showed that after satisfactorily firing.

When we began the conversation with reservist Eloy Zamora Hernandez, it seemed like he wanted to silence us in a maze of words:

"We shot good for Good."

While we meditated, the peasant smiled. He was activating the elevation crank for his antiaircraft gun. After a few seconds, he removed our doubts with his eastern wit.

"Don't think too hard, comrade. What I mean is that if we did not shoot well, we would not have qualified as Good," he stated. He immediately gave full rein to a mischievous, fraternal laugh.

Eloy was one of the last artillerymen to join the unit which put him at a relative disadvantage in his training compared to the other soldiers. However, he was one of the most distinguished in firing in the battery which revealed the great combat ability of the small unit.

The reservist himself explained:

"I exploited the experiences that the comrades gave me well. But something else shook me and told me: 'Eloy, you cannot do poorly.' Purely and simply, we belong to a unit that is the initiator of the Socialist Emulation in the Eastern Army and I knew its commitments well."

We asked: "Only that?"

"No, of course not! In each class or exercise here, it seemed like we were really fighting. When we had a break, it was like 'take ten' and then continue fighting. All the activities had political content. That really strengthened us."

This antiaircraft artillery unit, as initiator of the Socialist Emulation in the year of instruction that just ended, set in its commitment the main mission of constant increase of combat and mobilization readiness. Therefore, combat and political training would be developed with high quality and 100-percent fulfillment of the programs.

The entire process would be aimed at teaching the troops the necessary elements for war based on field training. This aspect is a basic principle of the instruction.

One expression of the achievements is the satisfactory result of this battery in combat firing. The qualification was Good but included some Excellents.

An exchange of impressions with reservist Zamora Hernandez led us to believe that, in the training of the artillerymen, special emphasis was placed on developing the instruction in an atmosphere approaching real combat. Before, during and after the firing, there was real political and party support. We were not wrong because later we corroborated this through talks with chiefs, officers, political workers and reservists.

Indispensable for War

Field conditions permitted these artillerymen to expand their horizons in the ability to carry out violent actions and deal powerful blows mainly against an air enemy. Solid pedagogic preparation of the chiefs and officers and the creation of appropriate physical and psychological tension during the classes and exercises that took place during different hours of the day and under different climatic conditions were necessary.

In order to increase combat mastery, the small unit received the necessary elements that made it ready for combat even more quickly and made it hit the targets quickly in the first round.

They did not lack theoretical knowledge in the details of modern warfare or the study of the documents that regulate the life and combat activity of the FAR troops.

That combat atmosphere permitted the reservists to increase mastery of their technology or armaments as well as to learn or develop a related combat specialty, technology or job. Those factors played a decisive role in the achievement of success.

Decisive Day

The antiaircraft firing range was the scene of the decisive day for these artillerymen. Reservist Rafael Martin Zoren remembered:

"Actually, we left with the determination to hit all the targets and to hit for a qualification of at least Good. As reservists, we are aware of the statements in the Second Party Congress on preparing ourselves militarily.

"When we went to the cars, we were very happy. On the road, we were mentally reviewing what we had learned. On the terrain, we began the work with the discipline that we have always maintained. We listened well when the guidelines were given to the battery. The explanation permitted us to verify some small points. We made the emulation commitments and combatively occupied the fire positions. Imagine! With all that, no targets could remain unhit.

"We did several types of antiaircraft firing and also firing at tanks. In short, the man in the battery did well. He fulfilled!"

We inquired: "Which man?"

"Us! We acted as a single man; that is why I said that."

Not Missing

Without any doubt and as was expected, the systematic political and ideological work was not missing at the different stages.

From the very first moment, the personnel knew the importance, characteristics and methodological demands of the task to be done. To support efficient fulfillment, individual and collective emulation commitments were made and carried out.

Different competitions in knowledge and some additional exercises were stimulated including a meeting with the more experienced artillerymen. There was no member of the party or the UJC [Union of Young Communists] without a task in the successful development of combat firing.

There were special meetings with the drivers to explain the norms and safety measures to be observed during the march in columns, the transfers and other movements. There was also constant propaganda and agitation work and daily analysis of the results. The deficiencies and difficulties were indicated in time and measures were taken to eliminate them. The emulation caught fire and daily, through political information summaries, the distinguished and vanguard members were announced.

It would take too long to detail the rest of the political and party tasks. However, when we reflected on the success achieved by the small unit, the factors that provided it and the overflowing joy there, we could agree with reservist Rafael Martin that Battery No. 2 acted as a single man.

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REPORTAGE ON MILITARY HONOR GUARD ACTIVITIES

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 26 Aug 82, No 34, pp 24-27

[Article by Pablo Noa Noa: "Honor Guard Is Ready"]

[Text] Who has not thrilled to the loud chords of the Music Band and the elegant marching step of the ceremony company of the Havana Guard?

Few could answer negatively because these units participate in public ceremonies so frequently that their presence has become familiar and expected.

The members of the guard have played an important role at receptions and farewells for visitors, parades in the plaza, award ceremonies and presentation of banners, funeral ceremonies and military oaths. This diversity and number of activities provide the best support for such a statement.

Since 15 August 1977, date when it was created, the mere fact of belonging to this type of unit has been an important stimulus for officers, sergeants and soldiers. That is sufficient reason for them all to try to maintain and constantly increase the levels of individual and collective training as well as the living and working conditions.

"I remember in 1977 when we--a small group of comrades--came here with the mission of forming the unit and beginning to fulfill the tasks planned for it," stated Corvette Capt Carlos Enrique Carracedo, founder of the unit.

"Col Agustin Rodriguez Munoz was our first chief. We have gradually developed, not only from the point of view of preparation and training but also technology, construction, the material base, etc."

The experience acquired in these years, including exchanges with other guards in the country, reveals the accomplishments achieved.

The training system is very intense. The members of the music band spend long days practicing as do the members of the ceremony companies. Occasionally, with the pressure of only a few days, they learn marches, anthems and other pieces for receptions for foreign visitors or other activities.

Capt Jesus Martinez told us: "Infantry instruction is basic since it constitutes one of the main aspects of our duties. The classes emphasize conduct

and appearance, marching, military courtesy and military and general education.

"Physical education is also basic because it helps the comrades to be in top shape to do the movements and requirements of the ceremonies efficiently and well. In addition, FAR regulations, orders and directives are studied. Political training, shooting, tactics and other general topics are also covered in the instruction programs."

Captain Martinez, who was an FAR vanguard in 1980-81 and an army vanguard in 1982, was very happy because the small unit to which he belongs was selected vanguard in the past year.

He added: "Ever since I knew that this type of unit existed, I longed to belong to it. I have always liked infantry. As a student at the Gen Antonio Maceo Interservice School, I attended any review or practice. That is my military vocation."

The Havana Guard and its members have played a distinguished role in many activities. In addition to ceremonies and other missions, it was a major participant in reviews and inspections of military technology, basically in cities and areas outside the units, when it was first created.

Today these tasks have changed somewhat, independent of the constant influence that this unit has as a model in discipline, conduct and appearance.

"Coordinated and collective work is a characteristic of this group. It does not matter that part of the personnel carries out support tasks and the other part does the reviews and ceremonies. All are aware that their activities any place constitute direct or indirect support to achieve success in our main task."

Lt Delfin Gonzalez stated that. Since 1979, he has been in charge of support work for the guard. He felt that identification of the personnel with the functions of the unit is one thing that promotes fulfillment of the plans.

He added:

"The participation of all the comrades in remodeling and constructing sites and areas to improve living conditions as well as in cleaning and beautification has been serious and selfless. This is done without neglecting individual and collective training."

It is almost impossible to count the official ceremonies in which the members of this unit have participated in these past 5 years. Those that are especially recalled with pleasure include the Sixth Summit of the Nonaligned Countries, the reception for Col Arnaldo Tamayo, transfer of the remains of Gen Calixto Garcia and Ana Betancourt and Celia Sanchez' funeral.

The personnel in this command is also responsible for organizing parades and reviews for different commemorations. In recent years, it participated in the

ceremonies constituting the Territorial Militia units in the Havana municipalities and the national ceremony.

Young PFC Manuel Cortes Chavez stated: "For me, one of the greatest honors in my life was to be selected to be part of this unit.

"I have served in the unit for 2 years and personally I can state that these months with the officers, sergeants and soldiers of the guard have been the best school that I could attend. I have learned a lot about matters that help me in the present and, of course, in the future.

"The nature of our activities positively influences the formation of correct habits of conduct and discipline. In a word, it is a matter of pride for the youths to be members of this unit."

Cortes preferred the tasks of the line guides during ceremonies. He is also known as a poet. He composes songs and is a delegate for a special district of the people's government. He recently achieved a coveted goal in the emulation, being named vanguard for the 6-month period.

The will, tenacity and love for their tasks of the members of the guard stand out in their spirit and general conduct. Therefore, it is not unusual that after the honor guards or training sessions are over, they practice plays, songs or dances that they will present for culture day.

Along with the activities to train the units to execute ceremonies, reviews or honor guards, a large number of tasks to guarantee the best development of life in the camp are carried out. The amateurs have received several awards at festivals. The sports lovers have a large karate team. They also sponsor a children's club at a nearby school.

When examining the causes of this sustained success, Major Leyva attributed the major role during these years to the members of the party and the UJC [Union of Young Communists] as well as the chiefs, officers, warrant officers, sergeants, soldiers and civilian workers "who have not spared any effort or sacrifice in the fulfillment of our tasks."

The unit is young but its intense work earns it the stimuli and recognitions that it has received. It proudly displays the FAR Certificate for units fulfilling the commitment for the 25th anniversary, the banner for the 10th anniversary of the Western Army and the UJC Award for fulfillers of the commitment for the Fourth UJC Congress among others.

However, the victories achieved do not make them rest but are a spur and support that permit them to continue working and advancing to be better each day and to have more quality and efficiency in the fulfillment of the missions assigned to them.

The results of these 5 years are an important starting point to achieve greater accomplishments.

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PIONEER ACTIVITIES WITH DAAFAR DESCRIBED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 26 Aug 82, No 34, pp 36-39

[Article by Rolando Pujol in collaboration with the DAAFAR newspaper SIEMPRE ALERTA: "The Small Missile Launchers"]

[Text] We have seen many things in DAAFAR [Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force] during several years of journalistic work. In spite of this, we could never imagine that, with our combat technology, a group of children could be in the position to do what, in every respect, seemed prohibited due to their size and limited muscular strength.

When we recently visited the National Club Exposition at the Palacio Central de Pioneros, we watched with admiration as four pioneers, with the skill of seasoned soldiers, moved a huge, heavy antiaircraft missile from a transporter to the launching ramp.

If this work is arduous for adults, imagine how it must be for these tiny missile launchers! But there are the pictures and the facts, clinching and undeniable.

It all began more than a year ago when several young cadets at the UJC [Union of Young Communists] level of the Military Technical Institute enthusiastically undertook the task of forming an antiaircraft missile troop club.

The raw material quickly came from the fifth and sixth grades of the Benito Juarez Primary School in the municipality of Playa. Soon, all put their hands to work.

Twice a week the students received training in handling land installations, launching, transportation and missile loading.

At the end of the school year, the 20 members of the club were tested and passed with an average of 98.

The time had come to demonstrate what they had learned at the municipal and provincial club expositions. They won the right to attend the National Expo.

Until then, the instructors had tried not to make the training too complicated. However, one day a bold idea came from the pioneers themselves: "Prof, why don't they let us really load the ramps? We can do it!"

That proposal was tempting but doubts and conflicting opinions arose as to the true ability of the little ones. They tried to dissuade them: "You are still very little." "Yes, but we can do it," they insisted tirelessly.

Finally, it was decided that nothing would be lost by trying. After establishing the necessary safety conditions, they put the transporter, the ramp and the missile in the hands of the children.

The first demonstration was a success and the others that followed were even better. Then came the presentation at the National Club Exposition. The audience was amazed when they saw the tiny people manhandle the huge steel masses.

Only one thing remains to be told. The launching ramp where the little pioneers showed their abilities is the same one where the missile that destroyed the Yankee U-2 spy was launched during the October Crisis.

Symbolic, isn't it?

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EJT ANNIVERSARY, EMULATION ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 12 Aug 82, No 32 pp 56, 57

[Article by Ruben Fonseca]

[Text] The celebration of the ninth anniversary of the founding of the Youth Labor Army (EJT) and the commencement of the socialist emulation campaign of that institution were held at the Pinar del Rio Command. Unit 17215, the place of the commemoration, was decorated with bright colored banners, and officers and men in perfect formation attentively listened to the accomplishments of this collective which qualified it as the EJT initiator of socialist emulation being broadcast over the loudspeakers.

Some of the data show us that in the 1980 sugar cane harvest--the time of the unit's inception--it managed to fulfill its production plan by 128 percent with a productivity of 307 arrobas of cane cut per man, and a field attendance of 66.3 percent. Five of its platoons attained the million-arroba mark.

The production plan was fulfilled by 157 percent during the 1981-82 sugar cane harvest, and the unit attained an actual productivity of 429 arrobas of cane cut per man and increased its field attendance to 86 percent. On this occasion, six of its platoons attained the million-arroba mark and two others the 2 million-arroba mark, and the unit as a whole qualified for the million-arroba distinction.

In the cultivation stage of the recently completed sugar cane harvest, the unit also fulfilled the salary plan by 123 percent and got good results in Marxist-Leninist instruction and in the political classes for sergeants and enlisted men.

The living conditions of the personnel have improved considerably at this time with good installations that make it possible to provide for the material and spiritual needs of the officers and men.

In the cultural work also, this unit has done so well that it has a small ensemble which plays modern music and a traditional Cuban musical group, two soloists, a mimic and a chorus. The performance of these amateurs enabled this collective to win first place in the amateur festival at the level of the EJT Command of Pinar del Rio. Another achievement was the winning of first place in the boxing championship at the command level.

This unit has also distinguished itself because its UJC [Union of Young Communists] Basic Committee received the Honor Banner granted by the communist youth organization to the most outstanding youth collectives.

At present, this unit is the vanguard organization of the EJT Command of Pinar del Rio and has been praised on several occasions by the EJT headquarters and the party leadership of the province and the municipality. At the last control and assistance inspection, it got a good rating, and four of its combatants were ranked vanguards of the Army and two others vanguards of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces].

Upon being designated the initiator of socialist emulation, the unit assumes a number of obligations. During the current cultivation stage spanning August and September, it plans to clear 210 caballerias of land and plant 28 caballerias of sugar cane, which is equivalent to 110 percent accomplishment for the average salary, and to attain 86 percent in field attendance.

The cane-cutting soldiers pledged themselves during the 1982-83 harvest to have 80 percent of their number fulfill the slogan of cutting 50,000 arrobas of sugar cane per man, 1,500 arrobas per squad, 2.5 million arrobas per platoon, 5 million arrobas per company and 20 million arrobas per battalion, and to achieve a productivity of 350 arrobas per man and a field attendance of 86 percent.

Other commitments have to do with getting good results at the Officers Study Circles and the sergeant and privates political classes, and with keeping up the effort to improve the living conditions of the personnel. Also, they intend to develop still more the massive cultural undertaking in honor of the 24th Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution, to win first place in the athletic competitions, to achieve high ratings in technical aptitude, and to develop a strong emulative movement during the special production operations [and?] in the ideological sessions that will be devoted to the 10th anniversary of the founding of the EJT, maintaining its status of "Socialist Emulation Initiator Unit" for the duration.

There was an emotional moment when the officers, warrant officers, noncoms and privates pledged themselves to comply with these commitments.

Subsequently, the EJT leadership issued an appeal to all officers, warrant officers, noncoms, privates and civilian workers of all commands concerning the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the founding of this institution on 3 August. The document urges fulfillment of the clearing and cultivation tasks in the 1982-83 sugar cane harvest, and the preparation for the 1984 sugar cane season.

The allocution calls on the units engaged in constructive activities to strive unceasingly to surpass their production plans and to improve the quality, productivity and attendance. It is stated in the appeal that the attainment of those goals is an indispensable condition for the EJT to celebrate a 10th anniversary that is worthy of the best combative and international solidarity traditions of our people.

In summing up the activity, Brig Gen Jose Oduardo, EJT deputy chief for the rear area, mentioned that the chiefs and cadres of the command maintain the same enthusiasm and revolutionary spirit of the outset, and that they have actualized the postulates that gave rise to this institution by increasing each day the production rates and the organizational levels, thus tackling and effectively performing the tasks of production and defense of the country.

He subsequently said that "we have not been devoid of difficulties, but the eagerness to modestly contribute to a better and more efficient sugar cane harvest and fittingly salute the 4th Congress and the 20th Anniversary of the UJC is shown by the fact that the production attained in the recent harvest was 695 million arrobas of sugar cane cut for a 116 percent fulfillment of the plan, with a productivity of 326 arrobas of sugar cane cut per man and a field attendance of 81.7 percent.

In his closing remarks, he said that "these production achievements, jointly with a better organization, the improvement in the living conditions of the personnel, and an increase in the political work of the chiefs and the party political agencies and organizations, made it possible to win the honor banner awarded by the National Committee of the UJC, which makes us proud and at the same time compels us even more to redouble our efforts to keep on being the most productive force of the country in the manual tasks of the harvest."

8414

CSO: 3010/2334

INTERNS STUDYING IN NICARAGUA GRADUATE

Announcement Made

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 19 Aug 82 p 4

[Article by Susana Lee]

[Text] Managua, 18 Aug--The 106 Cuban interns, members of the "Fourth Congress of the Union of Communist Youths," who will graduate as physicians next Saturday, 21 August, from the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, began a broad program today in this capital.

As will be recalled, this group of young people was selected from among more than 1,000 in the sixth year of their medical studies who, answering the call of the Revolution, made their choice to come to this fraternal country to finish their studies and to take joint courses in medical care and, following their graduation, to continue as doctors in social services in Nicaragua for the time required.

They arrived in this capital city last 15 April and a few days later were incorporated into the teaching-assistance work force in hospitals in Managua, Esteli, Matagalpa, Jinotepe and Rivas.

During this 18-week period of preprofessional practice, good academic preparation, obtained by all of them, should be noted, as much so in the theoretical as in the practical aspect, completely fulfilling the teaching and assistance program worked out by Cuban and Nicaraguan teachers.

In the course of the final week, they took their examinations for grades, getting 66 excellents, 39 goods and only one fair grade.

As for the work done in the different hospitals, just a few figures will suffice to get an idea of the tremendous work they did at this stage in Nicaragua: They attended 72,826 cases, of which 20,928 were outside consultations, 51,898 were at guardhouses; they participated in 878 major surgeries 1,830 minor surgeries and 3,933 maternity cases.

Among other activities included in the graduation program for the Cuban interns were the placing a wreath on the monument to Carlos Fonseca Amador, a visit to

the Museum of the Revolution, a meeting with the "19 of July" Sandinista Youth in Leon, and with members of the Cuban medical brigades from Esteli and Masaya, as well as making a huge blood donation.

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This is the first time where there will be a graduation of Cuban University students outside out country, which assumes even greater significance since it is also the first time that sixth year medical students have done their internships in an international mission.

Along with the Cuban interns, taking part in this interesting and fruitful experience were the dean of Medical Sciences School Number Two of Havana, Dr Eduardo Pelayo, and nine professors, who were in charge of teaching responsibilities, wherein they had the collaboration of Nicaraguan professors and specialists from Cuban medical brigades.

MINSA Head Interviewed

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 19 Aug 82 p 4

[Article by Susana Lee]

[Text] Managua, 18 Aug--The group of interns have done exceptionally well and they really got only positive credits for their work. In short, we can say it has been a very rewarding experience from the point of view of services, teaching, closeness among Nicaraguan and Cuban health professionals and it opens some extraordinarily positive perspectives.

The foregoing was expressed by Lea Guido, minister of health in the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, in an interview granted to GRANMA within a few hours of the first graduation outside Cuba of Cuban physicians, after having taken the second semester of their internship in the hospitals of five Nicaraguan cities: Managua, Esteli, Matagalpa, Jinotepe and Rivas.

The meeting took place in the office of MINSA [Ministry of Health]. It is more than an interview. It is a frank, fraternal talk. Lea Guido speaks almost without pause, with complete mastery of the subject. She is familiar with the activities carried out by the young Cuban interns in Nicaragua in depth, as well as that of Cuban physicians who, during 3 years, are making their internationalist aid available to the brotherly people.

"I think this is something new in Cuban cooperation, the first experience, and it seems to me that it will be the first graduation overseas of medical students. I truly believe that the freshness and desire to work here in Nicaragua which these comrades brought not only has had an impact on assistance services, but also on the mystique of how they carry on their work."

"To such a degree," the minister of health said, "that the regional directors of MINSA who know they are going to graduate and will do their social service in Nicaragua are asking that they return to the same places they did their internships. That is not possible because now they are going to render another kind of service, but it gives an idea that their stay in the hospitals has been

extremely positive; they have won the affection of their comrades and have been an important force in our centers."

As for teaching, she explained that they have awakened a great interest among Nicaraguan physicians who would like to participate in this program, almost as a matter of prestige. "We have contrasted our experiences and I believe we have all learned from this relationship."

The conversation revolved around health in Nicaragua, conditions before the Sandinista triumph, the deplorable existing situation with a mortality rate of 121 for every 1,000 live births, with a small and severely deteriorated hospital infrastructure and scarce human resources. "On account of the triumph of the Revolution and as one of the things a revolution can solve is health, thanks to the political decision of the National Directorate of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and the Revolutionary Government, and the efforts of patriotic Nicaraguan professionals and to international solidarity, I believe that during these 3 years we have achieved qualitative leaps in matters of health."

And she cited some examples: In Nicaragua, year after year, they had a poliomyelitis epidemic and what happens in 1982, there has not been a single case of the disease; the incidence of malaria has dropped, one of the endemic pathologies of the country; university enrollment in medicine has increased; training in technical means has advanced; international solidarity has been counted on, the strongest contingent being the Cuban one.

Nicaragua has not been exempt from having some medical professionals leave the country. Given the limited number of medical personnel on tap--around 1,300 plus 400 foreigners--this has had its repercussions, above all in some specialties. But this has been answered by the rise in productivity of Nicaraguan physicians and international aid, which has allowed, for example, an increase from 2 million consultations made in 1977 to 6 million made last year.

Lea Guido picks up the topic of interns again, since her work in Nicaragua will have another important edge on health programs in that sister nation: "It will allow us to accelerate the training of our own specialists."

The minister explained that a physician in her country upon graduation spends a year as an intern and after that two in social service. "We had a large deficit. On the one hand, we had to cover the health areas with physicians from social service and we were unable to place them in specialties. Meanwhile, some specialists were leaving the country. With the inclusion of the more than 100 Cuban interns, already physicians, in social service, that is going to let us remove Nicaraguan physicians a year sooner, right now in September, so that they can begin their specialty courses which, moreover, we have broadened to 12, in 11 of the 8 we used to have. That is a very important element and a significant step in health development in Nicaragua."

On stating that she has news of the arrival of a new contingent of 200 Cuban interns in the next few days, she said that this kind of cooperation which

is giving will allow Nicaragua to gain several years in training its specialists and constitutes an extraordinarily positive element.

She ended by saying, "Nicaragua's accomplishments in health matters, its advance in these 3 years, are owed in the first instance to the existence of a revolution in my country; in the second, to the political will, persistent and patriotic work of Nicaraguan workers in health; and in the third instance, to international solidarity, in which Cuban collaboration has an eminent place."

9908

CSO: 3010/2286

PRESIDENT JORGE BLANCO LAUNCHES MORALITY DRIVE

PA180840 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1446 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Report by Miguel Franjul]

[Excerpt] Santo Domingo, 17 Sep (LATIN-REUTER)--Salvador Jorge Blanco, the new Dominican President, who promised a return to morality in the government, has launched his campaign against corruption.

Investigations are underway on presumed government scandals with figures that surpass \$10 billion.

When Jorge Blanco was inaugurated as president last month, the country's economy was in ruins and high-level corruption was practically an institution, according to official sources.

Now an investigation has been opened on alleged irregular payments by state banks to construction firms. Government officials have said that more than \$9 million was paid in advance payments to firms that had no authorization to carry out projects. Most of them are connected with the construction of roads but lack resources to carry out the projects.

The presumed sale of more than 50 government vehicles at prices that district attorney Antonio Rosario termed "ridiculous" and without the public auction demanded by law is the topic of another investigation.

Rosario said that he will personally question Jose Maria Hernandez, former minister and nephew of former president Antonio Guzman, in connection with this issue.

The district attorney added that investigations will begin soon on the activities of the Dominican social security department, which is accused of illegal medicine sales.

Also, public employees will be ordered to give testimony before a commission that is investigating the business connections of the former government, the president stated.

Many political analysts of the republic blame the 4 years of government by Guzman, who died in July as a result of an accident with a weapon, for the general corruption. They admit that he inherited the problem but say that he did nothing to correct it.

Jorge Blanco took office at a time when the Dominican Republic, which shares with Haiti the Caribbean island of Espaniola, faces serious economic problems.

The republic's foreign debt totals \$2 billion, while the unemployment rate is 30 percent and 5.6 million inhabitants live mired in general poverty.

CSO: 3248/18

LEFTISTS REJECT NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

PA120430 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2046 GMT 11 Sep 82

[Text] Santo Domingo, 11 Sep (EFE)--Ten Dominican communist parties and groups have issued a document rejecting the initial economic measures adopted by President Salvador Jorge Blanco's government, which has been in office 25 days.

According to the Dominican Communist Party, the Movement for Socialism, the Movement for Socialist Unity [Movimiento Por la Unidad Socialista], the Socialist Workers Movement [Movimiento Socialista de Los Trabajadores], the Communist Workers Nucleus [Nucleo Comunista de Los Trabajadores], the Revolutionary Communist League [Liga Comunista Revolucionaria], the Socialist Workers Organization [Organizacion Socialista de Los Trabajadores], the Dominican Workers Party, the Revolutionary Workers Party [Partido Revolucionario de Los Trabajadores] and the Anti-Imperialist Patriotic Union [Union Patriotica Anti-Imperialista] the measures adopted by President Jorge Blanco since he took office on 16 August "are an offensive against the living standard of the workers and the popular masses."

These 10 groups, which include the country's best known communists and none of which has a seat in either house of congress, reject the austerity policy imposed by the government.

The communists believe that the measures were adopted without taking the poor classes into consideration. The communists also believe the measures favor a system and social class which, in the midst of a serious crisis, is attempting to reorient the country's economy to preserve its interests.

The groups that signed the document have decided to immediately oppose the policy which, among other things, freezes the wages of the government and private workers for 1 year.

The communists regard the government taxes on the large capital "significant," although they consider them insufficient as far as control and import restrictions are concerned.

After rejecting the austerity measures imposed by the government, the 10 groups suggest, among other things, a general wage increase and periodic cost-of-living adjustments.

They also request price decreases and the freezing of staple prices and housing rents, the imposition of price controls as well as an expansion of the health, education and public transportation services for the poor.

The communists recommend increasing the taxes on profits and capitalist property, the proceeds to be reinvested in productive activities. They also recommend harsher punishment for the powerful who have caused the country's present economic crisis.

CSO: 3248/18

COUNTRY SECTION

ECUADOR

BOMB SCARE PROMPTS EVACUATION OF BANK OF AMERICA

PA210403 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Sep 82

[Excerpt] The anonymous telephone threats to the Bank of America this morning turned out to be a joke in poor taste.

Bank of America executives confirmed to Ecuador Radio that four calls, which were apparently recorded, were received this morning. According to the calls, the bombs had been placed at the bank's main building, where 141 persons work, and at the (Amazons) branch, where 38 people work. They were supposed to explode between 1400 and 1500.

The bombs were allegedly placed on the terrace of the main building located at Colombia Avenue and Gen Pedro Briceno Street, a short distance from the [words indistinct] and in front of the Central Bank. A payment of 3 million sucres was demanded but no place or time of delivery were mentioned.

The threats were reported to the police and the two buildings were excavated. Telephones were tapped in case new calls were made. The police sent in security agents and patrol cars. Members of the Quito regiment which specializes in [words indistinct] made an inspection and determined that there were no bombs.

Following a watch that lasted until after 1500, (Guillermo Gomez), the bank's general manager, described the incident as a joke in poor taste and an offshoot of the psychosis prevailing among the citizens following the fire at the Del Pichincha. Gomez emphasized that he will request the appropriate investigation. He stressed that the bank is very well accepted by the people and has no reason for such threats.

MINISTER EXPRESSES VIEWS ON BUDGET, UNEMPLOYMENT

Guatemala DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 25 Aug 82 p 3

[Text] The minister of finance, Leonardo Figueroa Villate, stated at a press conference that the general budget for 1983 will be prepared in accordance with the circumstances, the needs of the country, and the estimated revenues, although certain items from the budgets of the years 1964 to 1982 will be preserved.

This is because of Guatemala's special situation, he said, which is shared with other countries throughout the world. He explained that what happened was that budgets were drawn up that were not carried out due to the fact that the parameters set were no longer valid. Therefore, the 1983 budget will be adjusted to fit reality, employing other parameters and other variables, with the focus on greater development of the population. The public works projects now under way will continue; in addition, attempts will be made to start new projects with little foreign involvement for the benefit of certain low-income segments of the population and to help the greater part of the country.

On Unemployment

When questioned regarding unemployment, the minister of finance said that every institution is constantly changing. It is natural, he said, that a large employer like the government, should experience turnovers, changes, and dismissals of personnel as a normal process. He explained that whenever it is necessary to fill such slots again, certain requisites must be met.

Minister Figueroa Villate stated that unemployment has occurred in the public sector as well as in private enterprise, as the result of the recession, the contraction. At present, he added, the problem is worsening as there are plants working at 40 percent capacity production capacity or installed capacity. Therefore, the authorities have taken some measures and are cooperating with private enterprise to create new sources of jobs.

Regarding the public sector, the minister said that the government had too many employees and had to eliminate those who were not performing specific tasks. In reply to questions by reporters on the savings obtained by the dismissals from the Secretariat of Economic Planning, Minister Figueroa Villate stated there were few; therefore, the payments to employees provided by the Civil Service Law should be canceled.

Denies False Rumor

The minister of finance categorically denied the rumor that the emergency discount would be terminated and the annual bonus reduced by 50 percent. This is not true, the minister said, because the present government had demonstrated concern for public employees and all the social gains would be preserved. The emergency discount is an acquired right and the annual bonus is an established benefit and in no way will be terminated.

As an example of government concern, he mentioned that payments to public employees would start on the 25th, in advance of the traditionally established dates. Salaries will be paid on time as there are enough funds to cover all salary obligations from now until the end of the year.

9015

CSO: 3010/2307

MINISTER FIGUEROA VILLATE ON ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL ISSUES

Guatemala DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 11 Aug 82

[Text] At the invitation of the Guatemalan Institute of Certified Public Accounts and Auditors, Leonardo Figueroa Villate, minister of public finance, spoke on the subject of the participation of professional men in government before a large group of professionals interested in some aspects of public financing and the participation of certified public accountants and auditors in correct and adequate tax collection methods.

The event was presided over by the board of directors, made up of Augusto Lopez Zaldana, Francisco Porras R., Lilia del Valle de Marin, Ernesto Santizo T., Eduardo Gonzalez, Rudy Castandeda, Rocardio Diaz, and the president, Guillermo Zuastegui.

Before focusing on the subjects which the board of directors had requested he address, the minister of finance said that "it is satisfying for those of us who have the responsibility of conducting the public business," to participate in gatherings of this kind in order to raise questions and issues on current events "that should be faced in all sincerity and frankness so that we in turn will obtain opinions and ideas in an exchange whose result can only be the constant improvement of our nation."

Two Initial Reflections

Figueroa Villate said the subject suggested two initial reflections; one respecting the sharp division between the public and private sectors, as if they were opponents or occupied antagonistic positions. "I think," he said, "that the private and public sectors have the same objective, to work for the common good," and that the actions of one decisively influence the other. The second, he added, concerns the apparent difference in motivations and efficiency of the college graduate when he works in one or the other sector. This, he said, "is a distorted image because the professional man, no matter what sector he is employed in, responds to his academic, moral, and civic training, and in this sense there are equally good professional men in the public sector as in the private sector."

Concerning Public Finances

Turning to the subject proposed by the Institute, Figueroa Villate referred to the most important activities which the Ministry of Public Finance engages in by law. He added that in accordance with the Short Term Economic Plan, an increase in fiscal revenues is being sought that will permit adequate and effective tax administration and budgeting by authorizing only indispensable and urgent expenditures and rejecting the superfluous. Employing these criteria, expenditures of the central government and the decentralized agencies were reduced by 50,606,267 quetzals.

Strict Austerity

At present the 1983 budget is in the draft stage, and according to the policy of rigorous austerity in public finances, there is a daily review of the purchasing done by government agencies; purchase orders and payments for materials and supplies that are not essential are rejected, but on the other hand procedures involved in urgent purchasing are expedited.

Minister Figueroa Villate mentioned that responsibility for overseeing government revenues rests principally with the Office of Customs and the Office of Internal Revenue. "The effectiveness of tax administration depends on the proper organization of these agencies and the use of modern and effective procedures in overseeing taxes and other fiscal revenues, while striving constantly to keep costs as low as possible."

The minister of finance emphasized the importance of the Office of Fiscal Inspection and the Electronic Data Processing Department in tax administration in overseeing revenues and expenditures areas of the budget.

Verification of Expenditures

Minister Figueroa Villate said that investment costs, mainly in projects financed with foreign loans, have been reestimated.

With regard to investments, especially in projects financed with foreign loans, Minister Figueroa Villate said that the possibilities for executing and financing these projects were reestimated and a speedup in the negotiations for the loans and expediting reimbursements by the agencies involved were considered, with the result that the new estimates are considered reasonable and feasible. Regarding the public debt, expenditures are calculated according to appropriate loan agreements and tables prepared by the Bank of Guatemala, so that there is no doubt about their accuracy.

He added that according to the latest estimate of expenditures in the current budget, total expenditures of 1,396,240,900 quetzals are foreseen, of which 465,691,400 quetzals represent investments, and 930,549,500 represent operating costs and floating debt from the previous fiscal year, to which should be added 178.3 million quetzals for amortization of principal of the internal and foreign debt.

Economic and Social Development

The minister of finance said that "government revenues are justified by the need to procure funds for services to guarantee the safety and defense of the population, as well as measures essential for the economic and social development of the country." Regarding capital revenues, the reason is the need to procure funds to finance public works programs for the benefit of the community," the difference being that these revenues generally bring indebtedness, such as in the case of foreign loans and the issuing of government bonds that have to be paid off from general revenues, in accordance with the Public Debt Program.

He said that according to estimates, the government will lose 148.1 million quetzals in 1982, considering the state of the economy and the prices received for our exports abroad. Regarding foreign loans, only 140.8 million quetzals will be received, instead of 211.8 million quetzals, making a total of 499.2 million quetzals in estimated capital revenues.

In order to meet payment commitments, it will be necessary to incorporate 130 (million) quetzals in treasury notes in long-term credit plans.

Origin of Revenues

The minister of finance spoke about the origin of the stamp tax and import and export taxes, explaining how they operate. He gave a brief history of the income tax and the reforms that have been instituted, emphasizing that in application it included those persons and activities not affected by the tax on profits, thus augmenting the tax base to the resulting benefit of the government.

Professional Responsibility

The final point addressed by the minister of finance was the responsibility of the professional men in the ranks of certified public accountants and auditors for correct and adequate tax collection, which presupposes knowledge of theory and practice in such areas as finance law, tax law, and statute law.

He mentioned the implementation of accessible and practical tax collection systems that comprise two aspects: rationalization of the processes employed in acquiring revenues through audits and the implementation, modification, and elimination of routine procedures for normal and periodic tax collections by means of sworn declarations. He emphasized the importance of the professionals in the fields of certified public accountant and auditor in preparing effective auditing procedures, in recommending and implementing accessible and practical collection systems, and with regard to the ethical and social responsibility they bear in presenting their audits.

Finally, the minister answered questions from the audience.

0015

000: 3010/2307

OFFICIAL CLAIMS NEW YORK TIMES DISTORTED INFORMATION

Guatemala DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 24 Aug 82 p 3

[Text] The American newspaperman who wrote an article about Guatemala that was published in THE NEW YORK TIMES and was later translated and published in a Costa Rican magazine, completely twisted the facts, Francisco Bianchi, presidential public relations secretary told DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA.

What happened, said Mr Bianchi, was that when they were here, they began to ask questions about the massacres of Indians, which they said the army was responsible for, and why these things happened.

"One of the things I told him was that actually in the guerrilla fighting there are Indians who have been deceived by these people whom they have enlisted, trained, and brought into their ranks, turning them into guerrillas, and of course some Indians die in encounters between the Army and the subversive groups.

"That is what I said but they twisted everything and they said I had told them that since the Indians were subversives, the only way to put an end to subversion was to finish off the Indians.

"Apart from that and basing itself on the piece in THE NEW YORK TIMES, the Costa Rican magazine completely distorted everything and said a whole host of things."

But it is very easy to learn the truth, just by observing government policy, added the public relations official. The first thing done was to grant an amnesty according to the Biblical principle of mercy. The president does not want violence or killing. That is why he granted the amnesty.

"The second is the policy of beans and rifles, with greater importance being given to the beans program. The army, working with the Committee for National Reconstruction, is making an enormous effort to help all the victims, who have been uprooted from their homes by the guerrillas.

"And it is precisely the guerrillas themselves who have caused all this, Mr Bianchi stressed because they want to take power through subversive means.

They say the end justifies the means, and by that phrase alone one can surmise what their philosophy is.

"It does not matter what they do as long as they achieve power and the goals they have set; thus it is very obvious that they rely on lies, deceit, and on any existing exploitable problem.

"The intentions of the Guatemalan Government are clear," the secretary of public relations said, "as it is the first time in history that Indian groups are represented in the Council of State."

There are 10 representatives of the principal Indian ethnic groups of the country on that body because the government is truly concerned with the condition of our countrymen and it definitely wants to identify them with the rest of the nation since they are Guatemala. We have to recognize that 60 percent of the population of our country is Indian, and they are hard working since they provide the larger portion of agricultural production in Guatemala.

"Thus the government wishes to identify itself fully with the Indians, it wants to delve deeply into their problems, give them technical assistance, in sum, it wants really wants to help them, but in a way the Indians want to be helped and not to impose things that go against their customs, their culture, and their way of thinking.

"For that very reason the Council of State is paying heed to them in order to listen and to understand their needs, and the roots of the problems they face, and in this way, by means of dialogue between them and the government, to find really practical solutions that work.

"That, quite frankly, is the response, and we see that all the rest is simply fallacy, a distortion of what is seen, but as the Bible says, by their fruits you shall know them.

"In this way people and the entire world will realize what the government is really trying to do, which is to work in justice, and in love, providing the needy with the help they require, but with dignity."

9015

CSO: 3010/2307

BURNHAM SENDS NATIONAL DAY CONGRATULATIONS TO BRAZIL

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana Cde. Forbes Burnham yesterday sent a special congratulatory message to the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo his Government and people on the occasion of their National Day today.

In his Message President Burnham said: "On the occasion of your National Day, it gives me great pleasure to send on behalf of the Government and people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and on my own behalf, heartiest congratulations and best wishes to you, the Government and the people of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

We in Guyana are conscious of Brazil's untiring efforts in the pursuit of peace and for the promotion of har-

mony and understanding among the nations of this hemisphere, and indeed of the international community. We also highly appreciate your abiding commitment to international economic justice including the accelerated development of the developing countries.

It is my sincere hope that the deep friendship and understanding which have characterized the relations between our countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead, and that our endeavours for the satisfaction of the aspirations of our peoples for social and economic justice will be amply rewarded.

May I extend my sincere good wishes for your good health and for the happiness and prosperity of the Brazilian people... the President's message said.

MINISTRY ORDER WILL HELP POLICE STEM CROP LARCENY

Produce Listing

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 5 Sep 82 pp 1, 16

[Article by George Baird: "Police Getting Wider Powers To Deal With Predial Larceny"]

[Text] ..A MAJOR step towards changing the law to give the Police wider powers to deal with predial larceny, was taken yesterday when Home Affairs Minister Jeffrey Thomas signed an order under the Produce Protection Act 1978.

The order listing about 100 commodities was cited as the Produce Protection (Commodities) Order 1982. It covers a wide range of crops, ground provisions, fruits, vegetables, dried legumes and pulses, herbs, spices and condiments produced in Guyana.

The list will assist the Attorney-General's Chambers to enumerate and define clearly the meaning of produce in order to help the Police make successful charges.

Predicting the signing of the order last month, Vice-President Hamilton Green had told a press conference that the law had to be redefined as part of a campaign to curb the growing prevalence of the stealing of farmers' produce.

Vice-President Green said predial larceny was a serious impediment to the growth and stability of the country but in the past thieves were able to escape conviction because the term produce was not clearly defined.

Noting that thieves were frustrating Government's efforts to increase agricultural production, Vice-President Green had also hinted that when the laws have been amended persons found in possession of agricultural produce for sale will have to provide proof of ownership or of lawful acquisition.

Consideration is also being given to the setting up of special courts in the regions to deal expeditiously with persons charged under the Produce Protection Act.

The list signed yesterday defines produce according to categories:

Crops are named as sugar cane, paddy and coconut.

Ground provisions are cassava, eddo, sweet potato, yam, tannia and dasheen.

Fruits are banana, plantain, orange, grapefruit, lime, lemon,

tangerine, mandarin, shaddock, carambola, bilimbi, watermelon, muskmelon, breadfruit, jackfruit, breadnut, mango, pineapple, papaw, avocado, pear, cherry, gooseberry, starapple, goldenapple, sugar apple, monkey apple, genip, guava, cashew, soursop, jamoon, sorrel, sapodilla, kokerite, awara, psidium, dunks, malacca apple, peach, seaside grape and plumrose.

Vegetables are poi (calaloo), Indian Kale (calaloo), tomato, cabbage, pumpkin, cucumber, boulangier, ochre, eschallot, pepper, green beans, squash, carrot, reddish, mustard, coriila, lettuce, pak choy, nenwah, jhingee, celery, parsley, onions, white potato, cauliflower and kholrabi.

Dried legumes and pulses are soyabean, peanut, red kidney bean, cowpea, pigeon pea, vita pea, mung and urid.

Herbs spices and condiments are basil (married man pork), thyme, blackpepper, dill, fennel, ginger, tumeric, bay leaf, and cinnamon.

Other produce are Brazilian nut, cocoa, corn, sorghum, tobacco and cotton.

Vigilante Action

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 5 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

MAHAICONY residents have formed several vigilante groups to discourage people from stealing their poultry. The residents claim that since chicken became scarce, they have been losing poultry through thefts. Cows and other animals are also being stolen.

A spokesman for one group noted that the thieves operating in gangs after dark, have been scared off by the patrolling vigilantes. The spokesman also claimed that some shopkeepers in the area make a business out of buying stolen stock.

The majority of residents in the area have their own chicken farms. They rear creole fowls, and 'white' fowls and ducks using local feed — bran and paddy — from nearby rice factories.

One resident noted that since the Government stopped importing stock-feed, the demand for the local feed has increased substantially.

He disclosed that whereas in the past, he could go in to the Dundee factory and call out his order, he now had to book his name to ensure that he gets supplies for the day.

Damage to Rice Industry

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

PILFERING and fraud are causing considerable damage to the image and purse of the Guyana Rice Board.

Another worrying aspect of the Board's operations is its large overdraft with the banks and the high interest rates it pays on the overdraft. General Manager, Leon Dundas said in a report accounting for his first 100 days as head of the corporation.

In his "Management Activities" report, Cde. Dundas said interest payments are absorbing the corporation's increased earnings and savings.

On security and the internal financing functions, the General Manager said there is

evidence from the auditors which indicates that theft and fraud continue to be areas of great concern.

He conceded that it will be unrealistic to expect the attitudes which support dishonesty and which appear to have become deeply entrenched at various levels of the organisation to disappear overnight.

He stressed, however, that the problem of theft and fraud will need to be tackled on the professional as well as the preventative levels.

GRB management has introduced a number of measures aimed at reducing waste and overcoming inefficiencies.

—(GNA)

TALKS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, ALCAN BROKEN OFF BY GOVERNMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

Discussions between the government of Guyana and the Aluminium Company of Canada (ALCAN) have been brought to an end, a senior official of the Ministry of Energy and Mines announced yesterday.

Alcan was one of three North American companies with which the Guyana government had been holding parallel discussions in recent months. The discussions centred on proposals for a detailed study of the marketing and management requirements of the Guyana Mining Enterprise Limited (GUYMINE).

The energy and mines official explained that the discussions with Alcan were brought to an end because Guyana was unable to agree that Alcan be granted ex-

clusivity in carrying out the study.

The other companies with which the government is still holding discussions are U.S. Steel and Kaiser.

Unlike the other companies, Alcan insisted that during the duration of its study no other company should be involved in carrying out similar studies. It also insisted that its study should be the first.

The Guyana government could not agree to Alcan's position. It insisted that the three companies conduct their studies simultaneously.

As a result of this deadlock, the discussions between the two parties have been brought to an end, it was explained.

Alcan is the parent company of Demba which was nationalised by Guyana in 1971.

HYDROGRAPHIC LAUNCH WITH ELECTRONIC DEVICES COMMISSIONED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Sep 82 p 6

[Excerpts] The Surveying capability of the Transport and Harbours Department has been enhanced with the recent acquisition of a sophisticated hydrographic survey launch, costing \$3.2 million, from Damen Shipyards of Holland.

The vessel, "Sammy Luck," which was handed over to Vice-President for Works, Transport and Housing, Steve Naraine, at a simple ceremony at the Harbour Master's boathouse, over the weekend is the sixth vessel to be delivered since the Guyana Government signed an agreement with Damen Shipyards and Netherlands Investments bank of Holland in 1978.

"Sammy Luck," named after the late Samuel Augustus Luck for his sterling contribution to hydrographic surveys in Guyana, will be used in conjunction with a trailing suction upper dredger now being constructed by the local shipbuilding specialists, the Guyana National Engineering Corporation.

The Sammy Luck is equipped with several sophisticated electronic devices, including echo sounders, magnetometers and mini ranger position fixing equipment as well as a Mannesmann sweep.

According to Harbour Master, Ivan Koman, the vessel will be used to help the hydrographic department of the T&H acquire relevant data for the proper exploitation of the country's waterways.

The T&H he said, has "a history of surveys without proper equipment." He noted, however that "all ship channels in the country need surveying and all the charts need updating."

The launch which has accommodation for a 14-man crew, is 13.7 metres long, 3.6 metres wide, and has a draught of 1.4 metres. In addition, it has a top speed of 9 knots and is powered by two caterpillar engines with a total thrust of 400 horsepower.

The Vice-President told the gathering that during the past three years the government spent \$48.2 million dollars in fleet replacement and renewal for the T&H.

Of this, the arrangement with Holland cost \$41.0 million while another with the United Kingdom cost \$7.2 million.

The purchases included four pilot launches, two tugs, two split barges, one passenger-cargo vessel, one cargo vessel, one survey launch, a dredge which is being constructed by GNEC and a quantity of navigational aids. (GNA)

CSO: 5025/479

CIVIL DEFENSE COMMITTEES TO BE ESTABLISHED IN REGION 6

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

AN intensive mobilisation campaign is to be launched in the East Berbice-Corentyne Region later this month, to promote the establishment of a number of Area Civil Defence Committees throughout the region.

Regional Chairman, Surujnarine Singh said Monday that 29 districts had so far been identified by the Regional Democratic Council for the setting up of the Area Committees.

The Committees will be attached to the East Berbice-Corentyne Regional Civil Defence Committee, itself recently established to prepare for and to enable residents to cope with any form of disaster that may

occur within the region.

The setting up of the Area Civil Defence Committees will be followed by the training of members in both conventional and non-conventional methods of fire-fighting and the rendering of first aid and primary health care.

The upcoming mobilisation campaign is also to include the convening of a series of meetings to create a new sense of awareness among residents about the purpose and implications of civil defence.

A RDC spokesman said the meetings will be designed to sensitise and mobilise the region's inhabitants "in case of any eventuality."

When formed, the Area Civil Defence Committees will work in conjunction with local authorities and regional institutions in their respective districts, to help protect life and property and to boost production and productivity in those districts.

Organisations and agencies to be involved include the Police, Fire Service, Ministry of Health, the Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance Brigade, trade unions and welfare and productive groups.

The Regional Civil Defence Committee is headed by the Regional Chairman, with Cde. Hilbert Spence as Vice-Chairman.

CSO: 3025/479

BRIEFS

PPP 'ACTION' COMMITTEE--The People's Progressive Party said its Central Committee has agreed to set up a committee charged with the responsibility of raising the consciousness of the Guyanese people "about the present aggravated world situation." The special committee would also deal with the threat posed by the massive arms race to national and social liberation, development and jobs and bread, and the danger of a world war. A release following the first meeting of the new general committee elected at the 21st Congress said the Party also resolved to "redouble its efforts to work assiduously towards the winning of peace." An "action committee" was also appointed to formulate and implement a programme in fulfillment of the tasks set out by the 21st Congress for the final victory and liberation of the "long-suffering Guyanese people." [Text]
[Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 5 Sep 82 p 3]

SUGAR PRODUCTION--For the first time since the 1981 First Crop, Guysuco's 10 factories surpassed the 10,000-ton production mark. With factories producing to almost maximum potential, and with good harvesting conditions, the figure recorded last week was 10,795 tons. This is 910 tons in excess of the target of 9,855 tons. The achievement is 109.2 per cent for the week, while the percentage achievement for the crop is 105.2. For the Second Crop, production has now reached 62,670 tons, and the year's total stands at 149,525 tons. Only two estates failed to make their targets last week. Skeldon was affected by a stoppage and fell by 185 tons below its estimate, while Wales fell by 35 tons. The other eight units have been placed on the Corporation's honours roll, with Wales receiving honourable mention: Albion factory produced 1,935 tons; Rose Hall (1,385 tons) achieved the honours roll for the third time and is picking up after severe mechanical problems a fortnight ago; Blairmont hit the 1,000-ton mark for the first time this year, and goes on the honours roll for the eighth time this crop; Enmore (1,045 tons) also surpassed its target and goes on the honours roll for the fifth time; L.B.I. recorded 1,025 tons; Diamond, in its fourth full week of grinding, produced 1,070 tons of sugar, an outstanding achievement since this factory had been subject to continuous mechanical problems; Leorora (730 tons) goes on the honours roll for the fifth time; and Uitvlugt (825 tons) goes on the honours roll for the sixth time. [Text]
[Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 5 Sep 82 p 16]

WORKPLACE SAFETY SURVEY--Leading Trade Unionist, Cde Norman E. Semple, has been sidelined for the elections later this month to choose the Executive Council of the Guyana Trades Union Congress. Cde Semple, First Vice-President of the TUC and until recently Chief Labour Officer, has not been nominated by his union,

the Guyana Public Service Union, for any position on the T.U.C. Executive Council. Five persons, including T.U.C. President Samuel Walker, have been nominated for the post of President. The others are Clerical and Commercial Workers Union President Gordon Todd, G.P.S.U. President George Daniels, Guyana Mine Workers Union President Stephen Lewis and Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union Secretary Ram Karran. Fourteen persons have been nominated to fill three positions as Vice-Presidents, four for Principal Assistant Secretary, 18 for three positions as Assistant Secretaries, four for the post of Organising Secretary, 10 for the post of Assistant Organising Secretary, six for the post of Treasurer and 32 to fill 15 positions as Committee Members. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Sep 82 p 1]

CSO: 3025/480

SIGNS NOTED INDICATING GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC PROGRAM FALTERS

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 5 Sep 82 p 10

[Text] **THERE ARE** some major indicators now available which suggest that the Government's economic programme is not producing the expected results.

The balance of trade deficit (the difference between the value of imports and exports) for the first three months of 1982 was \$239 million — the largest deficit for this period ever. The level of the deficit was almost 400% higher than in the comparable 1981 period. The increased deficit was a direct consequence of the depressed overseas aluminium markets. But the export of manufactured goods also fell by over one third.

The international foreign exchange reserves increase of \$582 million or 35%.

in June stood at a frightening MINUS \$1,244 million. This is an erosion of almost \$500 million or 67% since January 1981. No sign is evident of a trend towards improvement in the reserves. The total external (foreign exchange) debt of the country has risen from \$1,643 million in June 1981 to \$2,225 in June 1982 — an

This means that this external debt has been growing at more than \$1.5 million PER DAY or about \$1,100 PER MINUTE in the last year. This is just the EXTERNAL debt.

The internal debt has risen by \$265 million in the same period.

Borrowings

Apart from just the size of the debt growth, there are specific aspects which cause concern. In the three months to June the government borrowed

extensively from the Bank of Jamaica. Such borrowings exceeded \$210 million of which \$133 million was borrowed in June itself.

In the foreign exchange field our dependence on World Bank loans and credit extended by Mexico and Venezuela for the purchase of oil, is very large. In the two months to May almost 50% of our foreign borrowing came from the World Bank (\$23 million) and another 21% (\$10 million) from the oil facility.

The increase in the consumer price index remains minimal 6% in the year to June, 1982.

Production in many items is down. Tyre production in June was only two-thirds of what it was the year before. Less flour was produced in June... less rum and alcohol... less kerosene, and perhaps most significantly electricity sales to industry were down. Much of this may have been caused by the erratic electricity supply but no one can be encouraged by this performance. Cement production peaked at 25,000 tons in May but fell to only 15,000 tons in June.

Going the other way causing a serious impact on foreign exchange needs was the production of gasoline. In the June quarter 14.5 million gallons was produced — almost 30% more than the 11.2 million gallons produced in the same period last year.

Exposed

The shortage of foreign exchange has forced the government to make private sector firms obtain their own credit. Raw materials are now bought on 360 or 450 day credit terms. This technique allows the government to show reducing arrears at the Bank of Jamaica but it leaves many firms dangerously exposed to any change in the official exchange rate.

The revival in the Stock Exchange might be less vigorous if investors took the time to evaluate the catastrophic consequences that so many of our large firms might face should a devaluation take place.

The country may be passing all of the IMF tests with ease but the economy is not returning to health at any apparent speed. The government should start telling the hard facts to the nation.

BRODERICK SAYS SLIDE IN SUGAR INDUSTRY HAS BEEN CHECKED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Sep 82 p 6

[Article by Ivorall Davis: "Sugar Crop Could Reach Just Over 200,000 Tons"]

[Text] There is still a possibility that just over 200,000 tons of sugar will be produced for the 1981/82 sugar crop, although Gray's Inn in St. Mary, is the only factory likely to be in operation after today. Up to six o'clock on Wednesday morning 198,622 tons of sugar had been produced with about 100,000 tons of cane standing in the fields.

"Whatever happens, one fact stands out clearly. The slide in the industry has been checked and the foundation laid for the come-back and the achievement of the 300,000 tons target by the end of the 1984/85 crop," said a hopeful Dr Percival Broderick, Minister of Agriculture, yesterday.

Elaborating, the Minister said: "Hadn't there been that unfortunate three-week strike in April on some estates it lasted up to five weeks when the juice quality of the cane as at its peak, there is no doubt in my mind that we would have easily achieved our revised target of 220,000 tons of sugar. Of course the strike was followed by two weeks of rain, but this would not have changed the production picture dramatically."

Referring to the 100,000 tons of "standover" cane, Dr Broderick observed that that reflected the response farmers had made to the call for increased production and that they were playing a vital role in the industry's recovery programme. "They have taken advantage of the turn-around which is taking place, and great credit is due to them," he said.

Finances in Place

Minister Broderick also said that finances for the smooth operation of the industry were now in place following an exhaustive meeting with leaders of the industry, the Financial Secretary and himself. He said that the current debt situation of the National Sugar Company and the Sugar Industry Authority would shortly be straightened out.

"We are aiming at greater efficiency in the factory and estate operations, and in particular, greater efficiency at the mills," said Dr Broderick.

In order that the conditions at the factories can be in top shape, a rehabilitation programme is proceeding during the out-of-crop period at Frome, Monymusk and Bernard Lodge under a World Bank Loan facility, and the crop is scheduled to commence in December at Frome, Westmoreland.

In the meantime, Minister Broderick will be holding a two-day retreat with the top administrative staff of the industry "shortly," to examine all the factors relating to the restructuring of the industry, and which can lead to smooth and viable operations.

Tribute to Workers

Dr Broderick also paid tribute to the unions in the industry describing them as being "responsible and responsive." He also had a word of praise for the workers whom, he said, had made a lot of sacrifice in order to help the industry along.

Negotiations with the unions to settle wages and working conditions for the 1982/83 crop, are to commence at an early date. The Minister has expressed the hope that conclusions will be reached to facilitate "smooth passage" during the crop year, and additionally, that it will be a two-year agreement.

Dr Broderick also said that great efforts were being made to tighten up areas of losses, and storage facilities were being improved and arrangements put in place to halt pilfering, which had cost the industry millions of dollars.

CSO: 3025/481

PARISH COUNCIL BUDGETS SLASHED; ST JAMES EXAMPLE CITED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Sep 82 p 2

[Text]

PARISH COUNCILS budgets have been cut by an estimated 15 to 20 percent. An example is that of the St. James Parish Council which submitted estimates totalling \$15,627,929 to the Ministry but got only \$12,981,000. The allocation reflects an increase on last year's approved budget of \$11,602,130.

The St. James Parish Council's budget is made up of \$2,063,453 in general assistance; \$2,938,724 in special grants and deficits grants of \$7,250,922 with \$727,901 expected from revenue.

A circular from the Ministry signed by the Permanent Secretary, said the Ministry was aware that the approved allocation did not measure up to expectations but it should exercise due care in financial management so as to remain within the limit of its resources.

The Ministry has directed each Parish Council to effect statement of changes within its overall budget and submit the statements to the Ministry.

The Ministry advised that "the early approval of your budget should enable you to exercise the fullest budgetary control."

Chairman of the St. James Parish Council, Mayor Shallman Scott said it was recognised that the government was still experiencing serious financial constraints and has been doing all that is humanly possible to assist the Parish Councils.

He said the reduced budget "poses a challenge to us to seek to improve financial management in all departments of the Parish Council and to maximise output from the limited funds for roads, water, public health and sanitation, and all the other social services."

Mayor Scott also expressed the view that "it is timely for another appeal to the private sector to increase its financial contribution to community programmes since all that is required for physical improvement to the city and its social amenities cannot come from the Council, in view of the constraints."

PEOPLE'S CO-OP BANKS DOUBLE INTEREST RATES TO 9 PERCENT

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 5 Sep 82 p 1

[Text] Interest paid on deposits made to People's Co-operative Banks is to be increased from 4-1/2 percent to 9 percent, by an amendment to the regulations under the Agricultural Credit Board Act, signed by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr Percival Broderick, last week.

Decision to double the interest paid by People's Co-operative Banks, has been taken to attract more deposits by farmers, who use these banks mainly as a source borrowing.

Sources close to the Credit Board said Friday that the Agricultural Credit Board Act empowers the Minister of Agriculture to regulate interest paid by P.C. banks on deposits. And, in the new drive to re-organise and re-vitalise the functions of these banks, the decision was taken to double the 4-1/2 per cent interest paid on deposits in order to "make the lodgment of deposits in these banks more attractive.

It is hoped, by this amendment, to encourage farmers to save their money in these banks, as well as borrow from them.

According to the sources, the practice so far has been for farmers to deposit their savings in commercial banks, while they borrow from the P.C. banks. This, said the source, had led to a considerable weakening of the institution, because "farmers took little or no interest in its survival because it was, for them, not only a source for obtaining money, and one in which they had no stake."

In the programme of upgrading of these banks now being carried out, the Agricultural Credit Bank has been conducting a training programme to upgrade the staff serving P.C. banks. Already, 11 banks had been upgraded.

The head of the Agricultural Credit Bank, Dr Keith Roache, confirmed Friday that, under the training programme, another 15 P.C. banks are due to be upgraded by month-end. The present outlook is that some 40 P.C. banks will have been upgraded by the end of 1982. This number is one-third of the total of 119 P.C. banks, spread across the island, and of which several had been closed during the last few years.

In a statement made in August, Prime Minister Edward Seaga, said that the Agricultural Credit Bank had been lending funds through the commercial banking system as well as through the 11 P.C. banks which were to become the "vehicle for lending to small farmers across the country."

He said some \$13 million was now available for lending through the P.C. banks, and by next May there would be an additional 29 P.C. banks coming into operation. When these additional P.C. banks had been upgraded, some \$50 million more would be available for lending through both these and the commerce banks, to the farming community.

CSO: 3025/481

GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF MONTEGO FREEPORT SHARES DISCUSSED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Sep 82 p 17

[Text]

FINAL PREPARATIONS are reportedly being made for the signing of an agreement between the Prudential Group, Inc., of New York, and the Government of Jamaica for the acquisition of the American company's interest in Montego Freeport.

The Prudential Group, Inc., headed by Mr. Nathan M. Shippee, owns 61 percent of the shares in the Freeport complex.

On July 4, a Heads of Agreement was signed for Government's acquisition of Prudential's shares two days after that company decided to cease operation of the complex because of differences between itself and the Bank of Jamaica over the repatriation of more than U.S. \$2-million earned by Seawind Beach Resort, and the limit on local loans.

THE SALE AGREEMENT should have been signed on August 9, but

Leisure Tours of New York, the marketing company for Seawind, was reluctant to repatriate the funds and to release its contract on the beach resort.

However, earlier this week, Mr. Ivan Heron, who has been managing the Freeport as a consultant, on behalf of the Urban Development Corporation, left the island for New York to meet with the principals of the Prudential Group, Inc.

Sources close to the complex said his mission was to tie up arrangements for the signing.

The annual shareholders meeting of Montego Freeport and its subsidiaries, which was planned for July, was postponed to September 6, in light of the developments earlier that month. The shareholders will have to give their approval to the sale.

The Heads of Agreement said Government would be buying the Prudential shares for U.S. \$2.58 million.

BRIEFS

PEACE COMMITTEE--The leftist Jamaica Council for Peace has launched another movement. This one is called the Jamaica Peace Committee, which was launched on Sunday, August 29. Jamaica Peace Committee, as the brainchild of the Jamaica Council of Peace, was well supported by the Workers Party of Jamaica and the P.N.P. Youth Organisation and the PNP itself. Also associated with it was former Jamaican Ambassador to the United States, Mr Alfred Rattray, and the Rev. Bevis Byfield, of the Jamaica Council of Churches. The Committee's programme follows the programme of other peace movements in other parts of the world which are supported by the Soviets. Among the matters which the Committee says it will press for is a nuclear-free zone in the Caribbean (which follows the line of the Caribbean Zone of Peace advocated by Grenada and a number of other countries in the Caribbean); removal of foreign bases in the Caribbean; what the Committee calls cessation of military manoeuvres and aggressive acts including economic blockades; settlement of disputes by peaceful means; and the promotion of peaceful coexistence. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Sep 82 p 12]

CSO: 3025/481

H. CASTILLO PRAISES JLP FOR NATIONALIZATION

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 6 Sep 82 pp 35-36, 38

[Commentary by Herberto Castillo: "A Great Step Forward"]

[Text] In his sixth and last government report, Jose Lopez Portillo announced the most significant measure that Mexican governments have adopted since that 18 March 1938: namely, the nationalization of the banks and the establishment of strict exchange control.

In the end, Lopez Portillo realized that history gives a good account of the names of rulers who take the side of the working people, and not of those who become immensely wealthy.

The measure caught our own people and foreigners by surprise, despite the fact that it was the only option left to prevent the total collapse of our sovereignty; because the free plunder that was going on caused the nearly total lack of foreign exchange with which to meet the most enormous requirements.

Those of us who, on the morning of that first day of September, published the appeal to form the National Committee for Defense of the People's Economy, and who were demanding nationalization of the banks and the establishment of exchange control, were by no means expecting such measures to be adopted, and were preparing ourselves for a long battle to achieve this.

Now, we must expect the attack from the big businessmen who had been entrenched in the private banks to plunder Mexico. They robbed the people for many years. Their rise began with Aleman; and then they found that they were powerful not only economically, but also politically. They "had acted" in this way with Jose Lopez Portillo, and were expecting to "continue doing so" with Miguel de la Madrid.

As JLP noted in his report, the wise, patriotic decision was made because the plundering of the nation's wealth during the past 2 years had assumed scandalous proportions, to the point where the country was left without reserves. "We no longer had any more dollars," he commented; reporting that "the recent Mexican bank accounts abroad amount to at least \$14 billion." And he added: "The urban and rural real estate in the United States of America, owned by Mexicans, is estimated to be worth about \$30 billion." And he said that, as first payments on these foreign investments, "\$8.5 billion had already left the country and an unrecorded private debt had been produced to discharge mortgages amounting to about \$17 billion, added to the country's foreign debt." He remarked that when

those sums are added to the 12 billion in Mexdollars, in other words, \$50 billion, "they are equivalent to half of the liabilities that the Mexican banking system as a whole has at present, and to about two thirds of the country's documented public and private debt." The plunder, made possible thanks to the freedom of exchange and the private banks, had to reach those extremes before JLP decided to adopt the most important measure of his government and of the previous ones, since that of Lazaro Cardenas. Jose Lopez Portillo was always opposed to the nationalization of the banks and the establishment of exchange controls. Since he was secretary of finance, he has forcefully rejected our repeated demand that those measures be adopted; just as he has also always been opposed to putting an end to the anonymity of the shares of stock of business firms and to the repeal of the agricultural support to the landholders. The fact that he has made the correction does him honor; whatever the causes that forced him to do so may have been.

There are some who claim, rightfully, that the measure was late, that it should have been adopted in 1976 and that in 1982 the country had already been plundered. But it must be said that it is never too late to take the side of the people, and to defend the nation's economy and sovereignty. It is true, as the president said, that the dollars taken out of the country represent wealth several times greater than what the Spaniards took away during their 300 years of domination; but we cannot forget that Mexico's inhabitants have been producing wealth every day since its first settlers became established on its territory. There is no doubt that the nationalization of the banks and the strict exchange control will help to prevent that wealth from leaving further, and to have it used to achieve better and more decent living conditions for Mexicans. But it must be made clear that these measures, although they are so important, do not suffice. More is needed. We hope that, as JLP remarked, "many pending decisions may be made."

A reminder must be given that one isolated measure is insufficient, as in the case of the nationalization of the oil industry carried out by the Cardenas government. That expropriation was not enough to prevent the plunder of oil in the country during recent years; it was not enough to make that vital resource always serve the people of Mexico, to consolidate their economic freedom and to achieve their complete sovereignty. That was a brilliant, all-important step, requiring others, just as the nationalization of the banks is another step along that path; but more are necessary, and urgently required.

The uneasiness that this measure has caused for management cannot be ignored. That class has now turned against the government and is seeking means for recovering the lost privilege or for making it survive despite the nationalization of the banks. The management class has powerful members in the government. Many of its officials are from the same class, and have the same interests. They still have one effective weapon: the anonymity of the shares of stock of the business firms. Thanks to that, they have invisible allies within the government which is ending and the one which is coming. And they also have great allies outside of the country, in the big multinational companies. The private banks were an empire that was growing more each day, taking control of new business firms every hour. All of them combined will join the battle to retrieve their privileged positions, now against the government and its allies.

There will soon appear indicators of that battle of the powerful against the interests of the Mexican people. On the afternoon of 1 September itself, the heads of the managerial class met to analyze the situation, shocked and indignant over the measure that had been announced. They have now publicly disavowed the chief executive's authority to make such a decision alone. They claimed that a referendum was necessary. Previously, they were of the opinion that a referendum was not required to grant them the concession for running the banks, and that the president's decision sufficed.

The natural defenders of the measures adopted by JLP's government are obviously not in the ruling class. They are the rural and urban workers; the measure indisputably benefits them, because it makes it possible to keep the country's resources inside the territory, and because the poor workers do not leave Mexico for any reason other than to seek jobs in other countries, particularly the United States. Now the resources will be able to stay here, to be invested here and to provide work here.

But even though the workers are the natural defenders of these measures, they may not understand this, and they may undergo manipulation by the big business owners. Therefore, it must be stressed that the workers have been robbed in recent years as never before in post-revolutionary Mexico. It is not true that the only origin of the wealth taken out of the country was exported oil. During the entire government of JLP, PEMEX [Mexican Petroleum] has exported \$39 billion in oil and gas. Much of that money was invested here; and, according to the president's statement, the dollar-removers have tied up nearly \$40 billion abroad. So, there has been a plundering not only of much of the oil, but also of the product of the work of Mexicans in factories and in the fields.

For the natural defenders of the nationalization of the banks and the establishment of exchange control to become allies of the government, other measures must be adopted that will make the government's position in their favor evident to them. These are the ones which the most consistent left has been demanding lately and which were put forth in the appeal from the commission promoting the National Committee for Defense of the People's Economy. There is an urgent need for a tax reform that will tax the exorbitant profits of the big business owners, that will put an end to the anonymity of the shares of stock of business firms and that will repeal the VAT on popular consumption. There must be agreement on an emergency wage increase that will make the minimum wage 520 pesos throughout the entire republic, a freeze on prices, and the establishment of a moving wage scale. It should be noted that the contradiction that the president cited for the third time in a government report, relating to the fact that, when the price of corn is raised they applaud him, but when the price of corn tortillas is raised they boo him, would be resolved by nationalizing the food industry, which is now a source of wealth for the large multinational company owners. The huge subsidies that the government grants would make it possible, in just a year's time, to nationalize and pay for the facilities and capital of the companies in the food and pharmaceutical industries. The first steps have already been taken. There is CONASUPO [Government Basic Commodities Company] for food and the marketing thereof, and there are IMSS [Mexican Social Security Institute], ISSSTE [Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers] and SSA [Secretariat of Health and Assistance] for hospitalization and medicines.

Leaving matters at nationalization of the banks and exchange control would cause the battle between the exploiters and the exploited to be long and bloody. For the present, leaving matters at this point would make it possible for the business owners, merchants and dealers to become accommodated to the circumstances, with the ability to create a mixed economy with nationalized banking to continue exploiting the workers for their own exclusive benefit.

There are favorable conditions for making more progress, both internal and external. The United States is busy dealing with the conflicts in Central America and the Middle East. Despite temporary appearances, it is greatly interested in our oil, sufficiently so to harden its economic and political position toward Mexico, which has also become a valid spokesman for handling difficult issues with Cuba and Nicaragua. The Mexican workers have far more awareness of their strength as a class and have made progress in their independent organization. They constitute a valuable force that the government could use to advance along a path that will expand national economic independence and sovereignty. This path is built by becoming allied with the workers, and not with the business owners.

There is an urgent need to understand that, with the existence in our country of oil, gas, natural resources, abundant rivers, fertile land, coasts filled with marine resources and millions of Mexicans without work, the capital which we need and which many seek abroad will come from here, by putting to work the raw materials without our reach, and not by selling those raw materials abroad.

An era of major decisions could begin in Mexico, if the present and future rulers take advantage of the historic opportunity that is offered them.

As Jose Lopez Portillo said: "We have broken taboos. The revolution has rid itself of fears and is hastening its pace. Many pending decisions may be made."

It is true. Taboos have been broken. If the government continues along this path, the change that Mexico requires will cost the people less sacrifice.

If it is abandoned, the working people will do it anyway; but unquestionably at a greater social cost.

2909

CSO: 3010/2348

PORTRAIT OF PRI GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE IN TABASCO

Former MLN Member

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 23 Aug 82 pp 14-19

[Article by Francisco Ortiz Pinchetti: "Gonzalez Pedrero, Beneficiary of the Pretense That He Denounced as a Youth"]

[Text] Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero: "Mexico is an odd country in which the (official) labor leaders think like the bourgeoisie, and the (official) bourgeoisie governs the workers' political ideology. And let anyone who does not believe this peruse the most recent newspapers and magazines, and reread the statements or articles of both the 'labor' leaders, that is, CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], and the government party, that is, PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]: all of this in the petty everyday quarrels because, officially, CTM will continue to put forth revolutionary slogans, and PRI will continue to end its official letters with the well-known 'Democracy and Social Justice.' However, I think that even a foreigner, rather than swallow like a fool the rhetoric with which both entities grace themselves, would smile slyly and think: another deception from these characters...."

Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero: "I accept the candidacy for the post of constitutional governor of Tabasco, reiterating my faithfulness to the Mexican revolution's program currently in force. That program guarantees our country an open path toward equality and justice, with liberty."

It is the same Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero. The difference: 20 years; an aggressive Marxist and a challenging intellectual at the beginning of the 1960's, and a convinced PRI backer, apologist for the system and future governor of Tabasco at the beginning of the 1980's.

In 1961, he wrote: "The crisis has reached PRI and, despite the election euphoria, its effects will be felt. For the present, there has been an end to that business about the 'unity of the revolutionary family,' which actually never existed, in both the chambers of deputies and the governorships. Naturally, there still are those who are 'bound' and those who are 'covered up,' but those not elected are no longer subjected, nor disciplined as they were previously...."

In 1981, he says: "I am a party man. I believe that the course of action of the Mexican revolution has always been the only one capable of building a better

Mexico, day by day. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is its political arm, and the best guarantee that the progress toward a more just and egalitarian society, through the institutions created by it, will not be halted."

A socialist, Cardenist, Echeverrist, Moyist and De la Madridist, Gonzalez is perhaps the prototype of the leftist intellectuals who were won over by the system during Luis Echeverria's regime. His metamorphosis has been impressive.

Yesterday: "In its plan to gain votes, PRI has not shunned the Marxist methodology of political analysis; in the long run, everything is propaganda; at the moment of truth, there is present the guiding 'center' and the return to 'nothing has happened here.'"

Today: "The party of the revolution has received the backing of the majorities because it has always known how to interpret the aspirations of the Mexican people and, in particular, to lead them to a successful culmination."

A Tabascan by Birth

Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero was, surprisingly, unveiled as the PRI's candidate on 17 July of this year, when the Tabascan PRI members did not even remember his name; they were embroiled in an open battle for the state succession. Some, headed by Governor Leandro Rovirosa Wade, were backing Manuel Gurria Ordonez, the current "A" secretary of government of the Federal District Department; while others, the majority, were supporting David Gustavo Gutierrez Ruiz, director of FERTIMEX [Mexican Fertilizer].

Hence, both groups noted with chagrin that the designation would fall to a third person, whose name had only been mentioned among those of many other possible candidates, but in the home stretch had been considered definitely precluded.

Nevertheless, it was he.

Uprooted from Tabasco for nearly 40 years, EGP lacked local backers. To the Tabascans, he was an illustrious stranger, for whom not even "banking associates" showed up.

In fact, he never really lived there. He was born in the state's very capital, Villahermosa, 52 years ago; but as soon as he finished elementary school, he left his native place, and he did not return to reside in Tabasco until now, not even when he was senator representing that state.

On the other hand, his parents, Ramon Gonzalez Vega and Rosa Candida Pedrero de Gonzalez, have lived there all their lives. Actually, they have been the current candidate's only link with his native state; a sporadic and very relative link, because not even his family visits to Villahermosa have been frequent. Cuernavaca, where EGP has a house for relaxation, is far closer to the Federal District.

It was in the Federal District that he attended school, was trained and practiced his profession. He was 20 years old in 1950, when he enrolled in the UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] Law School, at which he received a law degree. He took specialized courses in sociology, economics and political science at the

University of Paris Institute of Political Studies. Upon returning to Mexico in 1955, he joined the UNAM as a professor in the then National School of Political Science.

In 1960, when his name was linked with those of other prominent university intellectuals who were politically concerned, EGP already had in his record a considerable number of medium-level posts in university departments, and had published his first three books: "Political Philosophy and Humanism" (UNAM, 1957), "The Cuban Revolution" (UNAM, 1959) and "The Battle of Cuba" (Era, 1960), the latter in collaboration with Fernando Benitez.

'Pinko' Intellectual

Gonzalez Pedrero was a member of a group of critical, progressive intellectuals, many of whom were grouped together around the image of Gen Lazaro Cardenas.

And he engaged in journalism; he was a feature writer for the magazine POLITICA, whose editor was Manuel Marcue Pardinaz, and to which other prominent Mexican "pinkos," as the reactionaries called them at the time, contributed.

In the 1 August 1961 issue, EGP wrote: "The government bourgeoisie knows and uses dialectics. It remembers that it was once revolutionary, and understands what is going on in the world. It knows what is meant when there is talk of the revolution of the 20th century. It travels through Asia and Africa. It understands and, not only that, it also reflects on all this. It draws wise, intelligent conclusions. And what does it achieve with that? Nothing, unfortunately. Once it has acquired an awareness of the problems, well, it has acquired an awareness and that's all. It talks about them, makes speeches, writes articles, argues and dazzles others. And after that, what? Nothing, gentlemen: 'letting things go on and happen,' it does nothing. It makes itself comfortable again in the convenient chair of national inertia, and waits and hopes for conditions to be favorable."

This was the tone of his articles when he discussed the national political situation in them. He was a relentless prosecutor of pretense, demagogy, the evils of the system, the PRI immorality and the bombast of the labor leaders. Concerning them, he expressed this view in the same article that has been mentioned: "They are obviously affiliated with PRI and, as everyone knows, the leaders are always more papist than the Pope. They know that they owe everything to PRI, and they are devoted to it. They are even deputies, senators and governors; everything but labor leaders. They are 'politicians,' and hence their concern is not the union, but rather the government. The workers' assembly does not matter to them, but the electoral one, that of PRI, does. And they fight, not for a wage increase or for strict compliance with the labor legislation, but rather for a seat...."

Another one of his articles in POLITICA was devoted to the crisis in PRI, on the occasion of the 1961 legislative elections. In it, he wrote that there were no innovations in the selection of the PRI candidates that would show any sign of imagination. "All the signs reflect quite the opposite: the dead end of paralyzed politics insisting not only on the old methods that have now been unanimously repudiated, but also on the same discredited individuals coming out of

organizations well known for their subservience and opportunism, and for their lack of a social function."

Another sign, EGP added in 1961, was "the nullification of the 'new cadres,' to give them some name, of the government party. These new cadres, consisting of young members of PRI, have been literally swept away by the old, perpetual reactionaries: the Fidels, the Yurens, etc."

He stressed: "The young members of PRI should be convinced, if they are not already, that their party which has its first, essential contradiction in its name ('institutional' revolution) cannot be renewed without liquidating itself. Why? Because to renew PRI there must be internal democracy, from below, from the members; and internal democracy would shatter the three columns (the three main ones) that are founded precisely on the methods which they now have suffered from personally."

The current PRI candidate for governor of Tabasco concluded, in that article, that: "Times have changed; the old apparatus created for other eras no longer works. Economic development must be related to effective communication systems. There must be a political organization geared to the new times" (POLITICA, 15 April 1961).

The young intellectual did not flinch from denouncing pretense. For example, he wrote: "Despite industrialization, the pretenses still exist. The economic pretense continues, just as the political pretense does. Many of the basic principles have been turned into rhetoric, smoke. We talk about national unity, but that unity benefits only the strongest ones, those who take the lion's share. We talk about the Institutional Revolutionary Party, but it is more institutional than revolutionary. We talk about a bourgeois, democratic revolution, but it is more bourgeois than democratic. The same thing holds true for the 'national' bourgeoisie: it has taken control of the nation, the fatherland, liberty, democracy and justice. They have even robbed us of the abstractions and, as a counterpart, they have turned reality into an abstraction" (POLITICA, 15 November 1960).

There was no doubt (in the foregoing and in many other examples) of EGP's challenging position toward the Mexican political system, nor of the firmness of his convictions. He confirmed them in his fourth book, published by the Era publishing firm in 1961, the title (and content) of which was in the end to turn out to be a kind of autobiographical premonition: "The Great Shift."

MLN [National Liberation Movement] Leader

During March 1961, in Mexico City, the Latin American Conference for National Sovereignty, Economic Emancipation and Peace took place. As a result of that meeting, in August of the same year a group of Mexican intellectuals organized the First National Assembly for National Sovereignty, Economic Emancipation and Peace, at which Gen Lazaro Cardenas, former president of the republic, officiated. A product of that assembly was the organization of the National Liberation Movement (MLN).

Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero was there, among its leaders.

MLN was headed by a National Committee comprised of 28 persons, which delegated the leadership authority to an executive commission consisting of eight individuals. EGP was one of them. The other seven were Alonso Aguilar, Enrique Cabrera, Heberto Castillo, Fernando Carmona, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Ignacio Garcia Tellez and Braulio Maldonado.

There were other very well known personages on the National Committee, including Narciso Bassols Batalla, Jorge Carrion, Jose Chavez Morado, Carlos Fuentes, Eli de Gortari, Jacinto Lopez, Francisco Lopez Camara, Manuel Marcue Pardinas, Arturo Orona, Rafael Ruiz Harrel, Carlos Sanchez Cardenas and Manuel Terrazas.

In a "call to the nation" published in December 1961, MLN put forth its basic principles and goals, founded upon the conviction that "the Mexican people's struggle for their freedom and prosperity is far from ended." And it listed concrete, immediate demands:

"Full enforcement of the Constitution; freedom for the political prisoners; independent, upright and democratic justice; free expression of ideas; total agrarian reform; trade union and communal farm autonomy and democracy; Mexican control of all our resources; national industrialization without foreign mortgages; just distribution of the national wealth; international independence, dignity and cooperation; solidarity with Cuba; trade with all countries; democracy, integrity and prosperity; bread and freedom; and sovereignty and peace."

Consistent with his ideology, EGP had an active membership in the Movement, while he continued his work as a university professor and political commentator.

In March 1964, in view of the election campaign for the presidency of the republic, MLN published in POLITICA (which was a kind of unofficial spokesman for the Movement) a very critical statement concerning the country's economic and political situation at that time. Among other things, MLN declared: "Apart from the fact that, under the present political regime, any campaign must be largely artificial and take place confronted with the understandable apathy of many Mexicans, MLN is of the opinion that the obvious indifference to the electoral process is also a result of the fact that Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, in whom everyone sees the successor of President Lopez Mateos, rightfully or not, enjoys the reputation of being closely linked with the country's conservative groups, and thus far has not spoken clearly about the nation's major problems, much less offered solutions that would make the people feel that things will change for their benefit."

Gonzalez Pedrero was nevertheless among the signers of that statement. However, his change would soon begin.

The Great Shift

A first symptom was his resignation, along with four other intellectuals, as a contributor to POLITICA.

On 26 July 1964, Fernando Benitez, Victor Flores Olea, Carlos Fuentes, Francisco Lopez Camara and Gonzalez Pedrero sent a letter to Marcue Pardinas, in which they asked him to remove their names from the list of the magazine's contributors.

The five who resigned (they had stopped writing for POLITICA weeks ago) gave as reasons for their decision the fact that the publication's original intentions had changed and that it had officially assumed "intransigent, unilateral positions regarding the development of national and international policy."

Fuentes, Benitez, Flores Olea, Lopez Camara and Gonzalez Pedrero accused the management of POLITICA of attributing to itself a revolutionary "orthodoxy" which "has resulted in ineffectiveness and terrorism."

In conclusion, they warned that, "We shall not retreat from our limited but sincere battle for the independence and progress of Mexico, for the complete updating of the Mexican revolution, for our foreign policy's approach to non-alignment with any of the groups in conflict and for the eventual development of a socialist democracy in our fatherland."

In the same 15 August issue in which their letter was published, the POLITICA management responded to its former contributors. It called them "opportunists" and "alienated," and made an accusation which seemed risky, but which time established:

"The career of the five (POLITICA said) reveals their purpose of accommodation during a 'calm' period with political and social stability, such as that preached by the bourgeoisie upon GDO's rise to power. Everything brings to light this purpose, which POLITICA has disclosed ad hominem in the five men.

"It is they who, in the comfortable, pleasant sanctuary of right wing opportunism, display the sectarianism and dogmatism that they attribute to POLITICA. Why so much of an uproar to resign a mere 3 months from the change of president, if not to justify themselves to the outgoing one, and accommodate themselves to the incoming one, calling the attention of both?"

Almost immediately, Gonzalez Pedrero became a contributor to the newspaper EL DIA. His articles almost always related to international affairs, but he had to concern himself with Mexican politics on the occasion of the inauguration of President Diaz Ordaz. He analyzed the president's inaugural address in his article of 7 December 1964: "new language," "realism," "strictly technical criteria" and "public morality" were the most outstanding features of GDO's message, in the opinion of the laudatory commentator.

The "new" Gonzalez Pedrero found in the president's speech "obvious objectivity in the statement of the problems and the technical solutions proposed"; and he added: "There was neither improvisation nor subjectivity; on the contrary, there were desires to put Mexico on a par with the historic times in which we are living."

He concluded his panegyric of Diaz Ordaz by saying: "A new era has begun, with the best signs. There is awareness, imagination, experience and a very well balanced government team. It all augurs clear vision and strong leadership for the next 6 years. Hence, the commitment between the people and the government has been concluded."

A few months later, in 1965, Gonzalez Pedrero was named director of the UNAM's National School of Political and Social Sciences, which was converted into a faculty during his administration.

In 1966, he also received his first post in public administration: as adviser to the general director of PEMEX, Jesus Reyes Heróles.

His path was becoming clear. Nevertheless, during the incidents of 1968, EGP was still considered by many at the university as a kind of intellectual "guru" representing a leftist, progressive line. His activity during the conflict that was to culminate in the slaughter of 2 October in Tlatelolco was that of a conciliator; and he kept his prestige at a high level.

He achieved something else at that time: his closeness with Luis Echeverría Álvarez, secretary of government in the Díaz Ordaz administration.

Gonzalez Pedrero's great shift materialized in 1970: With the backing of Echeverría, by then a candidate for the presidency, he was nominated as the PRI candidate for senator representing Tabasco.

And then it turned out that the former "pinko," the former MLN leader, the former challenger of the system, the former virulent critic of governmental pretense and of PRI, had been a PRI member "all his life." In his official biography, there appeared the following note:

"Member of PRI since 1949, when he was named Youth Action delegate in the state of Guerrero."

It turned out that, when he was talking to the PRI youth about "their" party, and criticizing it, he also meant "my" party.

Now a senator, he was made a board member of IEPES [Institute of Political, Economic and Social Studies] and, in 1971, director of the Political Training Institute of PRI's CEN [National Executive Committee]. And when Reyes Heróles attained the presidency of the party, his former adviser in PEMEX became general secretary of the CEN. A soaring career.

In the Senate, EGP was a particularly active participant. In addition to his frequent speeches from the podium, he chaired several Senate committees.

A confidante of the president, in 1974 he received a new mission: to direct the Mexican Radio and Television Corporation, TV's Channel 13. The modernization of the state channel is attributed to his management, which lasted until the end of the 6-year term. He left the project ready for its new facilities in the foothills of Ajusco peak.

And he had a close relationship with Mario Moya Palencia, then secretary of government and an obvious precandidate for the presidency of the republic. He gambled openly on him, "until the last day," as his friends comment.

He gambled on Moya and lost on Moya. With Jose Lopez Portillo anointed, Gonzalez Pedrero found his brief but spectacular political career suddenly interrupted. He went off to the banks; he returned to the university chair.

He was finally rescued by his friend, Fernando Solana, secretary of public education, in 1979. The latter gave him a dull job, but after all, a job: the management of the National Commission for Free Textbooks.

He was there, very quiet, when suddenly, magically, the PRI's three sectors unanimously came out in favor of his candidacy for governor of Tabasco, a position to which he had aspired without success and without very much conviction, 6 years earlier.

The Actions Will Speak

"I am proud of being a PRI member," stated the newly unveiled precandidate, as soon as he reached Villahermosa, "because I come from the Mexican revolution, by family tradition and my own conviction; because I believe in that revolution, which has made the progress of this country possible."

Gonzalez Pedrero faithfully followed the ritual that he had previously termed pretense. He talked about "spontaneous backing" in his favor; he said that he would be governor "if the majority of the people decide to put me in the governorship of our state"; he paid homage to the outgoing president, Jose Lopez Portillo, and to the one arriving, Miguel de la Madrid; he praised the constructive endeavor of Governor Rovirosa Wade; he offered "continuity with change." All in the best PRI manner.

"I have never been an enemy of the system," he said in an interview. "I am a man who is used to thinking (he explained); I am an intellectual politician. And I have formed my opinions in this way, and I have my own judgment. Criticism comes from judgment, and judgment comes from thinking. If they call that criticism of the system, it is a matter of reaching agreement with the terminology."

With his health thereby cured, and his record corrected with the stroke of a pen, EGP also complied promptly with the protocol of the PRI anointing, attending the meetings of the party's three sectors in Tabasco to receive their respective backing.

On 21 July, he told the farmers in Chontalpa: "I want to be a follower of the revolutionary spirit that you have shown today...to keep the force of our party in effect (...). Our party's slogan: Democracy and Social Justice, will be a watchword for the Tabasco countryside and farmers."

On 22 July, he told the members of the popular sector, in Tenosique: "The effectiveness of the revolution is shown in the political desires of the classes that came into existence under the aegis of its basic principles: the popular classes. Combined in the popular sector of our party, they are the best evidence that the action of the revolutionary governments has faithfully fulfilled the people's mandate."

On 23 July, he told the workers, in Macuspana: "We know that the best alternative for achieving justice with freedom is still the path of the Mexican revolution, of which our party is a zealous guardian."

And, on 25 July, before the PRI state assembly convened in Villahermosa, he said: "Reconciliation, respect for plurality and a combination of individual guarantees and social rights are the essence of our democratic existence. Our regime is open to all trends of thought, and is respectful of minorities. But it is the majorities who govern."

"...Modernizing the party has been Miguel de la Madrid's essential concern since he began his painstaking tour of the country in search of the popular vote. We Tabascans will respond to his appeal, and will convert the party into the most effective, daily link between the people and the government, between political supply and demand and between those who give mandates and those who hold them."

And then, already a candidate, Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero began his election campaign with the eloquent slogan: "The actions will speak."

Campaign Discussed

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 23 Aug 82 pp 16-17

[Article by Francisco Ortiz Pinchetti: "With the Party Divided in Tabasco, Gonzalez Pedrero Campaigns and Learns About His State"]

[Text] Tenosique, Tabasco--In stages, without the usual backing from the state government, with a party divided by the preelection battle, with meager human and even material resources and amid the scramble for the municipal presidencies, Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero's campaign for the governorship of Tabasco is making its way with difficulty.

It is a dull campaign, although it is felt to be serious: The candidate listens and learns, takes note and (just now) is learning about the real situation of his own state, which he left while still a child.

Gonzalez Pedrero cannot avoid his image as a university professor, nor his solemnity as an intellectual. At the age of 52, with his hair already white and his cold blue eyes, he does not know how to smile. When he does so, it appears forced; although when he speaks, he sounds convincing.

In addition to this lack of charisma, the campaign is being conducted in a rather unfavorable atmosphere. The economic crisis that the country is undergoing (which is being felt in Tabasco with particular seriousness) is one negative element; the other one is the local political situation.

It so happens that the battle for the succession split the Tabasco PRI; and there was a long and especially bitter fight. Two well-defined groups vied for the candidacy: that of Governor Leandro Rovirosa Wade and that of his opponents, who are not few in number.

The former backed Manuel Gurria Ordonez, secretary of government of the Federal District Department, as successor to Rovirosa. The latter fought on behalf of David Gustavo Gutierrez Ruiz, director of FERTIMEX. A third precandidate in dispute, although incomparably weaker, was Nicolas Reyes Berezaluce, PRI's current general delegate in Jalisco.

Rovirosa found out that he was not entitled to vote in the succession process, but that he was entitled to a veto. And the one vetoed by the governor was Gutierrez Ruiz, who is the most popular of the three precandidates and the one most rooted in Tabasco.

Gurria Ordonez represented Rovirosist continuity, and the security that having a faithful friend as a successor means to a former governor. Gutierrez Ruiz, on the other hand, would be a governor widely backed by various sectors in Tabasco, particularly Rovirosa's political enemies.

Nevertheless, the battle had an unexpected outcome.

Unlike the previous 6-year term, when the succession in Tabasco was decided on by President Luis Echeverria, in favor of his secretary of water resources, this time the deciding vote was that of President-Elect Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado. President Lopez Portillo remained on the sidelines.

And that difference was critical. With the presumed support of Manuel Bartlett Diaz, secretary general of the PRI's CEN, and one of the individuals closest to the future president, the decision was in favor of Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero. The latter was a genuine card drawn from the PRI sleeve. His designation was a classic "finger pointing" flatly ignoring the aspirations and battles of Tabasco's PRI members.

Gonzalez Pedrero also represented a solution on behalf of "revolutionary unity." He is obviously a man without commitments in Tabasco, although he is also a politician without followers and without a team of his own. He has had to form one, hastily, faced with the commitment of the election campaign.

The solution adopted at the center did not please the Rovirosists much, although it is far better for them than if they had opted for Gutierrez Ruiz. Hence the vacuum that the state government has created for Gonzalez Pedrero's campaign. Governor Rovirosa chose to go on vacation, and his collaborators have avoided any logistical backup for the election campaign.

Gutierrez Ruiz' followers, for their part, have accepted the candidacy of the former critic of the system and current convinced PRI member well. They realize that his government will be definitely different from that of Rovirosa, and that the latter's serious shortcomings will be exposed.

One indicator that backs this assumption is the composition of Gonzalez Pedrero's campaign team. Predominating therein are young politicians, consisting of former Governor Mario Trujillo, Rovirosa's predecessor, and two noteworthy examples, namely, Gustavo Rosario and Jose Eduardo Beltran.

Resembling what happened in the PRI's CEN with Miguel de la Madrid's campaign (when the party's president, Pedro Ojeda Paullada, remained as a figurehead while Manuel Bartlett, the secretary general, actually ran the party), the Tabasco PRI is headed by a Rovirosist, Angel Buendia Tirado; but it is Gustavo Rosario, the secretary general, who is managing the campaign. Jose Eduardo Beltran is, at the same time, head of publicity and the candidate's private secretary.

In addition to the backing from the Trujillists, Gonzalez Pedrero has now obtained that of other major sectors in Tabasco. The most important one, owing to their economic power in the state, is that of the cattle raisers. One of the candidate's first acts was to meet with Arcadio Leon Estrada, head of the Regional Cattlemen's Union and, of course, brother-in-law of David Gustavo Gutierrez. Leon Estrada appeared to be quite gratified at the end of that talk.

Gonzalez Pedrero has also received the backing of the service employees, particularly the hotel and restaurant personnel, including financial and material support for the campaign. Some young business owners are participating personally in the organization of the candidate's tour.

Also for the tour, the ADO firm contributed five buses in which the entourage is being carried. Despite the relative austerity, Gonzalez Pedrero is being accompanied by about 20 local newsmen and some 50 special guests.

At least for his tour of the municipality of Tenosique (the third one that he has visited), the candidate also has at his disposal for his travels a two-engine plane from BANRURAL [National Rural Credit Bank] and two helicopters, one from the Federal Electricity Commission and another from the national PRI, which still displays the green and red MM emblem.

Gonzalez Pedrero has divided his campaign (which will last 100 days) into three phases. The first one, which he is carrying out at present, is devoted to "meetings for municipal analysis," which are taking place in the capitals of each municipality. It is completed with short visits to small localities, in which the residents cite their problems to the candidate.

Here, in the municipality of Tenosique, Gonzalez Pedrero spent 2 days visiting a dozen communal farms and small settlements. In them, adhering to the features of this phase of his campaign, he engaged in listening to the problems and requirements of the inhabitants. Pencil in hand, the candidate takes notes and, at the conclusion, speaks briefly and seriously, inviting the Tabascans to a mutual commitment between themselves and the next government. He uses the propositions of Miguel de la Madrid, stressing that, "if the people put me in the governorship" in the elections on 14 November, he will give priority heed to the seven basic points put forth by the next president.

He is now, obviously, an ardent follower of De la Madrid.

"Let Tabasco speak," Gonzalez Pedrero has said, and he has made that remark one of the slogans for his campaign. He claims that he does not want to make promises: he wants to listen. And with that argument he postpones his interview with PROCESO until later on.

Although his unchanging countenance and cold attitude do not show it, the outpouring of the Tabascans' demands and requirements must touch his sensibilities. In the settlement of Usumacinta, on the banks of the river of the same name (where he ended his first day of the tour through this municipality), the candidate yielded to the local demands.

The residents of Usumacinta treated him and his party to a very heavily attended dinner. At the conclusion, a woman explained the community's problems and, in particular, requested of the candidate the completion of the 10-kilometer highway connecting her village with Tenosique. Gonzalez Pedrero responded: "We shall make those 10 kilometers of highway for you, and we shall make them at my expense."

2909

CSO: 3010/2348

BELAUNDE REPORTEDLY SUFFERING FROM PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Lima EQUIS X in Spanish 13 Sep 82 pp 4-6, 28

[Article by Tito Ercilla]

[Text] "I am concerned by the President's physiological health." This harsh and devastating remark was attributed by a newspaper to APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] Deputy Javier Valle Riestra. He responded in this manner to the truly incoherent, absurd and incomprehensible attacks made by Belaunde against Amnesty International, the renowned and respected world organization which defends human rights and is used in a consultative capacity by the United Nations. The chief of state had confusedly accused the organization of promoting a foreign plot against Peru on behalf of Shining Path terrorists. This accusation has drawn the ridicule of the whole world, which is well acquainted with the pacifism of Amnesty International and the opposition of the communists to its humanitarian work (which has caused it to denounce repression in the Soviet Union, Cuba, etc.).

(Valle Riestra, out of courtesy, later clarified that he had been incorrectly quoted by the newspaper in question. His remark really had been: "I am concerned by the President's ideological health.")

Be that as it may, the incident nevertheless crystallized an uneasiness, a preoccupation, a comment which has been common among the populace during the past few weeks. Namely, how sick is the President, from what disease is he suffering and to what degree does the visible deterioration of his health permit him to perform well the delicate duties inherent in his high position.

The subject is explosive. And we, as newsmen, would be wrong if we were to treat it with levity, irresponsibility or lack of respect for the dignity of the person and the institution of the presidency. However, we cannot fail to take up this subject, however thorny it may be, given the fact that it is a problem of vital national interest. The same thing happened in France, for example, when the late President Pompidou contracted cancer of the bone marrow during his term of office. In spite of the secrecy with which the Elysee Palace handled the problem, French newspapers and magazines covered the subject extensively, without anyone's considering it improper.

In the case of President Belaunde, the situation is complicated by a whole series of symptoms which have truly alarmed observers and increasing sectors of the public. First and foremost are his speech mistakes which are becoming more frequent, accompanied by sudden and very brief pauses in diction. That is somewhat surprising as FBT [Fernando Belaunde Terry] has always been characterized by the elegant style of his sentences and the fluency of his speech. What has been described, plus a monotony in his voice, which is also new for him, were apparent to all on the occasion of his last presidential message on 28 July.

Second, add to all this a visibly pathological obstinacy, which causes him, for example, to stick by his current ministers, come hell or high water, although such a practice is harmful to his own political interests. "He no longer listens to anyone--not even his brother Paco or even [his wife] Violeta--and it is virtually impossible to get him to change a decision or statement," one of the few populist congressmen personally close to the chief of state is reported to have admitted.

Finally, sudden fits of anger and an unknown irritability on the part of FBT, whose self-control was proverbial, at least in public, have been added to all the other changes in his normal presidential behavior. His most recent noteworthy outburst of anger occurred during the main ceremony on Civil Guard Day. Surprise and consternation were caused among the audience by the sight of an irate Belaunde piteously lashing out at the military regimes, condemning both terms as a whole...in the presence of two former ministers of the second term, Generals Cisneros Vizquerra and Garcia Calderon.

Such behavior is not entirely new. About a year ago, some of his statements which lacked moderateness and balance on the subject of Edmundo Cox Beuzeville, the young student who had been tortured by bad Civil Guardsmen, caused friction with the episcopate and a confrontation with Cardinal Landazuri himself.

Months later he astounded the country by arguing, with a very primitive level of conceptualization totally inappropriate for a chief of state, in favor of reestablishing the death penalty.

In the opposition and even in populist political circles talk has begun about the progressive decline in President Belaunde's mental capacity. In these circles such a thing is linked to the well spread rumor that has been around for many years, according to which the chief of state is said to have been suffering from Parkinson's disease.

The consensus in political sectors about a perceptible and increasing loss in President Belaunde's mental capacity and about an obvious personality change, and the insistence on the Parkinson's disease factor, caused us to conduct an investigation into the health of the president of the republic.

We have no ulterior motive, no desire to use a health problem as a weapon for a political attack. As we have said, we have the greatest respect for the person of the president of the republic, above and beyond differences of opinion, in the sense that he constitutionally personifies the nation.

However, precisely for that reason, the President's health is not a private matter but rather is a subject that concerns all Peruvians. The public has the right to know the whole truth. And the press has the duty to provide the information as well as the conclusion derived from the investigation.

The investigation which we conducted--we consulted several reputable specialists in the field--produced the following conclusion: The chief of state is indeed suffering from Parkinson's disease.

We were told that in 1977 President Belaunde had undergone an operation called stereotaxis, in which two very fine platinum wires through which ultrasonic waves are transmitted to the parts of the patient's brain to be treated.

The electrodes are introduced through the frontanel (upper and central part of the head) in the direction of the base of the brain where they are supposed to touch striated cells whose atony causes PARALYSIS AGITANS or Parkinson's disease. The sound waves emitted by the electrodes stimulate the striated cells to improve functioning and to moderate the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Today there are even more sophisticated techniques.

The operation reportedly was performed in the United States in Washington, D.C. and was known to Belaunde's friends who live in that country. It is known that at the time a private meeting was held at which the following persons, among others, were present: the current Minister of Labor Alfonso Grados Bertorini; the present Minister of Fishing Rene Deustua; and journalist Guido Monteverde. The main topic of discussion was precisely the operation which the exiled former president had just undergone.

However, an operation such as stereotaxis only makes the external signs of Parkinson's disease less noticeable. It cannot cure the disease and cannot even arrest it. The disease is irreversible and progressive.

Exactly what is Parkinson's disease? We are going to quote from "Treatise on Neurology" by Litter and Wexselblatt, 4th edition, published by "El Ateneo," Buenos Aires, pages 913-952:

"Parkinson's disease is a degenerative disease characterized by muscular rigidity accompanied by tremor which makes its appearance during the age of senility or presenility. In most cases it appears at the age of senility but also at the age of maturity, generally between the 40th and 60th years. The onset is insidious and gradual and is associated generally with mental disturbances. The evolution of the disease is also progressive and inexorable...

"As causative factors we can cite the emotions, which appear to play a very important provocative role, and cranial traumatism. However, the real cause of Parkinson's disease is unknown...

"Tremor is the principal symptom. At the outset, it is limited to the hands or even to one or two fingers, then it spreads symmetrically to the opposite member, gradually spreading to the segments of the upper members and then the lower members.

"Rigidity, which is not too important at the outset, then develops gradually and determines the typical flexion attitude (inclination of the body forward in 'static search of the center of gravity' according to the doctors we consulted). The face is characteristic: "It is the Parkinsonian mask (a face with little expression 'which gives the false sensation of solemnity,' according to the same doctors). Arteriosclerotic Parkinsonism makes its appearance after 60 years of age and is characterized by the predominance of rigidity over tremor (although the tremor does not disappear, the doctors say)...

"The fingers are extended with the thumb close to the index finger. Typical symptoms involving the fingers: the patient appears to be rolling pills. (According to the doctors, the proximity of the thumb to the index finger, as if the patient were counting bills is the unmistakable characteristic of the Parkinsonian)...

"Rigidity or hypertonia is a basic sign of this syndrome. The head is inclined over the trunk, and the back also is slightly bent...therefore, there is a general flexed posture.

"The movements of Parkinsonians are slow, irregular and of limited extension. Speech is monotonous. The speech intonation is lost. Writing is irregular because of the tremor; when the patient writes, he traces characters that are increasingly small (micrography)."

All these symptoms of Parkinson's disease have been found in the person of the president by neurologists who have taken the time to clinically observe his public appearances, TV speeches and his photos. There is no neurologist, a specialist in speech analysis, who for that purpose has taped FBT's recent speeches. Another has compared the President's writing as it was during his first term and as it is today.

The tremor in Belaunde's hands is quite visible, even though he has learned to carefully hide them. He puts them in the pockets of his suit coat, behind his body or puts them together in the shape of a triangle. On 28 July, to keep him from holding his message with his hands, he was provided with a lectern.

The rigidity of his body and his face is readily perceptible. His body is inclined somewhat forward. At a glance, his hands are seen to move slowly and with difficulty when he sits down or stands up.

There is one aspect of Parkinson's disease that escapes no one and cannot be hidden: FBT's fingers are almost always extended "with the thumb close to the index finger."

During his last message on 28 July he spoke in a strangely monotonous voice. His voice was without inflection and got weaker until it was almost inaudible. This despite the fact that the sound technicians of SINACOS [expansion unknown] kept raising the sound level of the amplifiers until it reached the maximum. According to the doctors, this is undoubtedly Parkinson's disease which is progressing implacably.

We are newsmen not doctors. Therefore, we will limit ourselves to telling things the way they are and to asking a few questions. Up to what point is it advantageous for the country to have a man with a progressively incapacitating disease in the position of supreme leadership? To what extent can a man who is suffering from such a disease compromise the nation's future with decisions in which irrational factors are increasingly appearing? At what point in the evolution of Parkinson's disease should the President be told that he is too incapacitated to perform his job? Has that time come? When will it come? Can an invalid be president?

It is not we who should or can answer these questions. They will have to be answered by men of science, specialists and doctors. And, in the final analysis, by the Congress of the republic which, in accordance with Article 206 of the Constitution, has the responsibility for declaring the chief of state physically incapacitated.

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BRIEFS

SENATOR'S RESIGNATION--Kingston St. Vincent Wednesday (CANA)--An Opposition Senator in St Vincent Bertram "Babaps" Young has resigned after seven months in office. Leader of the Opposition Randolph Russell said that Mr Young informed him he would be leaving the state for an indefinite period. Mr Russell denied reports that there had been a misunderstanding between himself and Mr Young over dissatisfaction with Mr Young's contribution to the debate on the 1982-83 Budget three weeks ago. In less than three years since the last general election here in 1979, no fewer than seven Opposition senators have been in and out of Parliament here. Four of them were dismissed by one of two Opposition Leaders who have held that post since the election, and three have resigned. The constitution of St Vincent and the Grenadines provides for six senators--four appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister and two on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition. There are 13 elected members in Parliament. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 2 Sep 82 p 3]

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